

Title: Living Holy Lives in Light of Coming Judgment

Sermon Summary: This sermon challenges believers to examine whether they are truly living surrendered lives to Christ or merely claiming salvation while living according to their own desires. Using the parable of the two sons from Matthew 21, the pastor emphasizes that genuine faith manifests in obedience, not just verbal commitment. The message focuses on 2 Peter's warnings about two coming fires—the destruction of the present earth and eternal judgment—urging Christians to pursue holiness rather than getting caught up in worldly divisions and personal grudges. The pastor stresses that God's restrictions are actually gifts of wisdom from our Creator, designed to protect us rather than limit us. True worship involves seeking God's kingdom first in all circumstances, not just when facing crises. The sermon calls believers to live with an eternal perspective, recognizing that everything earthly will be destroyed, and to focus on becoming holy and godly rather than being consumed by political divisions, personal preferences, or nursing grudges against others.

Key Points:

- God's commands are not restrictions but wisdom from our Creator who knows what's best for us
- Genuine repentance involves changing our minds and actions, not just verbal commitment
- We should have no regrets about obedience to God, only regrets about disobedience
- Satan works as the "accuser of the brethren" to divide Christians and distract from what matters
- Two fires are coming: the destruction of the present earth and the fire of eternal judgment
- We are slaves to whatever masters us; true freedom comes through surrender to Christ
- Being part of the church community helps us resist temptation and pursue holiness
- Our personal sins affect others, not just ourselves, because we are part of

the body of Christ

- We should live looking forward to Christ's return rather than investing everything in earthly pursuits
- True Christianity is demonstrated through transformed lives, not just claimed belief

Scripture Reference:

- Matthew 21:28-32 (Parable of the Two Sons)
- 2 Peter 2:18-22 (False teachers and returning to sin)
- 2 Peter 3:1-13 (The Day of the Lord and coming judgment by fire)
- 1 Corinthians 3 (Judgment and giving account)
- Proverbs (God's wisdom crying out in the streets)
- Book of Revelation (Judgment themes)

Stories:

- The Parable of the Two Sons: A father asks his two sons to work in the vineyard; one refuses but later repents and goes, while the other agrees but never goes, illustrating that actions matter more than words
- Personal testimony about moving to the current church location and staying despite financial challenges, trusting God's calling
- Illustration of animals in a forest fire working together despite natural predator-prey relationships, representing how Christians should unite against common spiritual threats rather than fighting each other
- Reference to the announcement of John and Courtney Watson's new baby girl, Nora Grace, born February 6, 2026, as an example of praying for the next generation to be "princess warriors for God"
- Personal reflection on watching dogs and sows return to their vomit and mud, illustrating 2 Peter's warning about returning to sin after knowing Christ