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Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

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## **Confident in a Righteousness Not Our Own**

**Romans 9:30-33**

Introduction: On What Are You Basing Your Confidence?

At one of the most dramatic moments in the Old Testament, the field commander of the mighty and undefeated Assyrian army came to the walled fortress of Jerusalem. Within the walls of the city were the godly remnant of Jews, led by humble King Hezekiah

The Assyrian army was well-equipped to lay siege to Jerusalem, and there was little doubt about the outcome if they did. The mighty Assyrians knew how to conquer a walled city.

The moment of testing had come for the Jewish nation, the moment of truth for Hezekiah and the remnant... and it was an Assyrian that asked the key question:

***Isaiah 36:4 The field commander said to them, "Tell Hezekiah, "'This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: On what are you basing this confidence of yours?"***

We shall see today that, if the answer of the Jews was anything other than, "We are trusting in the Eternal God to save us, not because we are righteous but for His name's sake!" they would have perished

So also the Gospel stands and proclaims that a far greater test is coming: Judgment Day! We are threatened not with temporal destruction, but eternal destruction...

And the Lord comes to ask us a simple question: **"What are you trusting in?"**

The Christ-trusting Gentiles of Paul's day would have answered: "We are trusting in Christ's righteousness alone to save us!"

The Christ-rejecting Jews of Paul's day would have answered: "We have kept the Law of Moses every day since our birth!"

One will be saved, one will not! That is the theme of this message!

Review

- Basic question Paul is asking: “Why are so many Jews rejecting Christ, while at the same time so many Gentiles are accepting Him?”
- Paul has been giving the answer from the perspective of God’s eternal and sovereign choice, His sovereign plan, His sovereign will
- He gives us unconditional election: “Not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.”
- From before the foundation of the world, God had chosen who would believe; and the rest were hardened
- “It does not, therefore depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God who has mercy”
- God has mercy on whom He wants to have mercy, and He hardens whom He wants to harden

## I. Righteousness Essential to Salvation

### A. Unconditional Election Saved No One

1. Election Does Not Change a Single Sinner
2. Predestination Does Not Save Anyone
3. Our Unrighteousness is Real, and Election Did Not Change That

### B. Must Have Positive Righteousness, or We Will Not Be Accepted

1. God’s Holy Eyes
2. God’s Present Perfect World
3. God’s Future Perfect World: “The Home of Righteousness”

### C. The Wedding Clothes

***Matthew 22:1-14 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. <sup>4</sup> "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' <sup>5</sup> "But they paid no attention and went off-- one to his field, another to his business. <sup>6</sup> The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. <sup>7</sup> The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. <sup>8</sup> "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is***

*ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. <sup>9</sup> Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' <sup>10</sup> So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. <sup>11</sup> "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. <sup>12</sup> 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. <sup>13</sup> "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' <sup>14</sup> "For many are called, but few are chosen."*

1. Christ's troubling parable
2. Wideness of gospel invitation: the word is spread all over the area that the wedding banquet is ready and they should come
3. The two shocks in the parable
  - a. Shock #1: the wicked rejection of the wedding invitation by so many rude people... even to the point of murdering the messengers!
  - b. Shock #2: the amazing end to the parable, as the king surveys the wedding hall, filled with all kinds of people, and the king throws a man out because of his clothes... in fact, Christ uses the language of HELL for this action

*"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. <sup>12</sup> 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. <sup>13</sup> "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

4. Wedding clothes
  - a. All over the world, people wear their best clothes to a wedding
  - b. Not just the bride and groom, but the guests as well!

Illus. Bridesmaids and groomsmen can spend hundreds of dollars for the appropriate clothing

- c. Frankly, I think weddings are fairly easy to crash... there is not a single person at a wedding who knows everyone there
  - d. Pretty much, the only way you'd know someone didn't belong there was if they were wearing shabby clothes
5. Issue: positive righteousness essential to salvation
  - a. Interpreting parables notoriously difficult

b. However, the issue with the punished people is wedding clothes, and the matter MUST be spiritual

c. The wedding clothes of the guests must represent perfect righteousness

***Isaiah 61:10 I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.***

d. Christ, and Christ alone is our wedding garment of righteousness

***Galatians 3:26-27 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, <sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.***

***Philippians 3:8-11 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.***

## II. The Case of the Gentiles

***vs. 30 What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith***

### A. They Did Not Pursue Righteousness

1. Definitely not!! Pagans lived filthy lives

The dinner parties of the upper class of the Roman Empire mirrored how they lived. Romans lived in extremes, for pleasures, and the need to feed their desires. This can be seen from the emperor down to the upper class. For example, according to Tacitus,

**"Nero prepared banquets in the public places, and used the whole city as his private house." (qtd. in Hadas 376)**

Tigellinus describes the most notorious entertainment of Nero,

**"[Nero] had a raft constructed in Agrippa's lake, put the guests on board and set it in motion by other vessels towing it. These vessels glittered with gold and ivory; the crews were arranged according to age and experience in vice. Birds and beasts had been procured from remote countries, and sea monsters from the ocean. On the**

margin of the lake were set up brothels crowded with noble ladies, and on the opposite bank were seen naked prostitutes with obscene gestures and movements. Nero who polluted himself by every lawful or lawless indulgence, had not omitted a single abomination which could heighten his depravity." ( qtd. in Hadas 376)

Roman feasts were disgusting: they would lounge around on cushions and eat till they gorged themselves; then they would purge, and resume their eating

Roman temple worship, especially centered around the mystery cults, were equally sensual and repulsive...

They pagan world was hardly seeking after righteousness!!

2. God's assessment of the pagan lifestyle is clear

***Ephesians 21-:3 Dead in transgressions and sins; by nature objects of wrath***

***Ephesians 4:17-19 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. <sup>19</sup> Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.***

What do the Gentiles "seek" here? "A continual lust for more..." They aren't growing weary of sin, they think they need MORE and MORE of it!

***Romans 1:29-31 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; <sup>31</sup> they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.***

***1 Peter 4:3-4 For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do-- living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. <sup>4</sup> They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you.***

3. They were pursuing pleasure and money and power and pride

4. They had NO interest in God, and were certainly not seeking Him at all!

***Romans 3:10-12 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; <sup>11</sup> there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. <sup>12</sup> All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."***

5. Later, Paul will marvel over this amazing thing... man does not seek God, God seeks man

God is like an unrequited lover, pursuing someone who has shown no interest

***Romans 10:20 And Isaiah boldly says, "I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me."***

So the Gentiles did not pursue righteousness

#### B. They Obtained Righteousness

***vs. 30 What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith***

1. Astonishing grace, amazing grace, wondrous grace from our eternal God!!
2. By faith, these filthy Gentile sinners have been cleansed, washed, clothed in righteousness... THEY ALREADY HAVE IT NOW... they don't need to do one single more thing to obtain it
3. Righteousness is Christ's perfect righteousness
  - a. Christ lived under the Law of Moses and obeyed it perfectly
  - b. He's the only human being who ever did this
  - c. He obeyed His parents perfectly as a boy and youth
  - d. He obeyed all of God's commands, even down to the tiniest one
  - e. He obeyed also the perfect spirit of every law...
    - i) to love God with all His heart, soul, mind, and strength
    - ii) to love His neighbor as Himself
  - f. He lived every moment for the glory of God and the benefit of His neighbor
  - g. He committed not one single sin, and missed not one single act of love that God wanted Him to do
  - h. Christ wove a perfect robe of practical righteousness by His heart of obedience to the Law of God
  - i. Every Gentile believer in Christ stands clothed in that righteousness in Christ

#### C. The Gospel Righteousness Already Mentioned in Romans

***Romans 1:17 in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."***

***Romans 3:21-24 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup> This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.***

#### D. Righteousness by Faith

1. Faith is the humble avenue of the soul through which God gives this gift of righteousness
2. Remember the example of Abraham

***Romans 4:3 What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."***

3. The Gentiles who were saved received this gift of righteousness by humbling believing they needed it, and triumphantly believing Christ had provided it

### III. The Case of the Jews

***Romans 9:31-32 but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. <sup>32</sup> Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the "stumbling stone."***

#### A. Israel Pursued a Law of Righteousness

1. It's hard to overstate how passionate some Israelites were to pursue a law of righteousness
2. After the exile to Babylon, the Jews that returned rightly associate their humiliation by the Gentile powers as an act of judgment by God
3. They had broken God's laws, destroyed God's covenant, acted rebelliously... as a result, they had lost everything of value to them
4. When they returned under Ezra, and rebuilt the wall under Nehemiah and the temple under Haggai, their zeal for the law of God ascended to an all-time high
5. They felt their relationship with God was totally dependent on keeping his laws
6. Sects of holiness arose within Judaism, like the Pharisees and Essenes, who sought to live a perfect life under the law

7. They established human regulations in addition to the Law of God, to protect the Law and be sure they would not break God's Laws
  - a. For example, they established extensive Sabbath regulations... a "Sabbath's Day walk" was the distance a law-abiding Jew could walk without breaking God's Sabbath Law
  - b. They also established rules about handwashing and tithing and just about every aspect of daily life
  - c. The Scribes and Pharisees epitomized this whole approach
  - d. They went down to the minutest levels

***"You give a tenth of your spices, mint, dill, and cumin..."***

#### B. Israel Has Not Attained Righteousness

1. Jesus said it plainly, in unequivocal language

***Matthew 5:20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.***

2. What was wrong with their righteousness?
  - a. It was all external... it did not touch the corruption of their hearts
    - i) Sermon on the Mount: Right after Jesus said that our righteousness had to surpass the Pharisees, Jesus probed the heart... it wasn't enough not to murder—what about the anger in your heart; it wasn't enough not to commit adultery, what about the lust in your heart
    - ii) Christ said it in His seven-fold woes

***Matthew 23:27-28 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. <sup>28</sup> In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.***

- b. It was pursued for their own pride and glory, with no dependence on God
- c. It was not humble and honest about true failings... it was ultimately far too optimistic

So, Israel pursued a Law of Righteousness as though it could MAKE them righteous

**BUT THE LAW DID NOT MAKE THEM RIGHTEOUS**



### C. Why Not? HOW They Pursued It

***Romans 9:32 Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the "stumbling stone."***

1. Again, no one seeks God... Romans 3:10 tells us that
2. The Jews were among those who did not seek God
3. They pursued a different kind of righteousness... their own attainment through effort in the Law

***Romans 10:3 Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.***

4. By works... by harder and harder efforts to be better people, to try again
5. Not by faith
  - a. Humbly acknowledging that their righteousness cannot save them
  - b. Humbly asking God for perfect righteousness to cover their wretchedness

### D. The Law Merely Diagnoses Unrighteousness... It Doesn't Cure It!

***Romans 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.***

Illus. The Law is like an MRI or CAT Scan which tells the truth to all who are willing to hear it... it does not cure a single person or kill a single tumor

### E. The Law Also Points to True Righteousness in Christ

***Romans 10:4 "Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.***

## IV. They Stumbled Over the Stumbling Stone

***Romans 9:32-33 They stumbled over the "stumbling stone." <sup>33</sup> As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."***

### A. Another Old Testament Prophecy of Christ

1. Paul conflates two prophecies from Isaiah
2. The first is Isaiah 8

THE ASSYRIANS ARE COMING... and only God can save you

If you try to save yourself militarily, you will be swept away, but if you humble yourself and trust in God, He will save you

- a. Context: Isaiah prophesies that the King of Assyria is about to sweep out of its territory and conquer many nations, including the northern kingdom of Israel
  - i) All the pagan nations will make their war plans and devise their strategies, but they will all fail

***Isaiah 8:9-10 Raise the war cry, you nations, and be shattered! Listen, all you distant lands. Prepare for battle, and be shattered! Prepare for battle, and be shattered!  
<sup>10</sup> Devise your strategy, but it will be thwarted; propose your plan, but it will not stand, for God is with us.***

- ii) Even the northern kingdom of Israel will be swept away because of their idolatry and sins
- b. The southern Kingdom of Judah will remain longer, but only if they rely totally on the Lord
- c. Isaiah tells the people of God a simple message: if you trust wholly in the Lord, you will survive the invasion of Assyria; but if you take matters in your own hands and devise your own clever defenses, you will be swept away

***Isaiah 8:12-15 do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it. <sup>13</sup> The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread, <sup>14</sup> and he will be a sanctuary; but for both houses of Israel he will be a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare. <sup>15</sup> Many of them will stumble; they will fall and be broken, they will be snared and captured."***

The Lord Almighty is BOTH 1) sanctuary... AND 2) a stumbling stone

- d. The only way to escape the coming judgment is to trust totally in the Lord... by faith you will stand and only by faith
- e. The Lord Himself will be the only sanctuary possible, if you fear Him and Him alone; if you regard Him as holy, and if you flee to Him for refuge, the disaster will not sweep you away... just as He said earlier:

***Isaiah 7:9 If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all."***

- f. BUT this word itself will be the test for both houses of Israel... God will be for most of them a snare, a trap, a stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall

Bottom line: the stumbling stone is this... being told YOU CANNOT SAVE YOURSELF... IF YOU TRY, YOU WILL DIE!!! BUT IF YOU SIMPLY TRUST IN ME, HUMBLY ADMITTING YOUR WEAKNESS, NEED, AND SIN, I WILL SAVE YOU

In the Old Testament, Almighty God was BOTH a sanctuary and a stone of stumbling for Israel... to the humble, faith-filled remnant like Hezekiah, He was a sanctuary and a Savior

To anybody who tried to prepare militarily, who didn't bother to repent but who felt what we need is stronger fortresses and a bigger army; what we need is to make a pact with Egypt to come fight for us; what we need is a new secret weapon or surprise strategy... if you try to save yourself that way, you will be slaughtered

AND it is the Lord who is doing it! The Lord Almighty was bringing the Assyrians to judge His own people! Thus the Lord is a stumbling block, snare, trap...

But if you humble yourself and trust in the Lord, He will be for you a Sanctuary

Hezekiah was a picture of the humble godly response... when the King of Assyria threatened to conquer Jerusalem Hezekiah responded with humble repentance for his sins and faith in the living God... and God sent the angel of the Lord who destroyed 185,000 Assyrian troops in one night!!

God worked salvation ALL BY HIMSELF... no Gideon, no David, no one but himself!!

### 3. The Second Prophecy was in Isaiah 28:

***Isaiah 28:15-16 You boast, "We have entered into a covenant with death, with the grave we have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place." <sup>16</sup> So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed.***

- a. Later threat to Jerusalem, prophesied by Isaiah
- b. This time it would be Babylon, and Jerusalem would not escape
- c. The leaders boasted that they had a separate deal, a special covenant with death
- d. They would escape the coming scourge, the assault of the King of Babylon (who is not mentioned directly, but rather indirectly in Isaiah 28... the people of strange lips who would speak God's judgment to Jerusalem by conquering it)
- e. The issue is the same: I WILL BE A STONE OF TESTING for you... if you trust in me, you will be saved

- f. BUT if you trust in your separate deal, if you think “I can handle this myself! I don’t need to trust in God” you will be destroyed

#### B. Israel’s Rejection Pattern Set

1. However, most of Israel did not trust in the Lord in Assyria’s day... but a small remnant with King Hezekiah did... they humbled themselves and were not put to shame
2. Again in the days of Babylon’s invasion, most of Israel did not trust in the Lord, but a godly remnant like Jeremiah did... the rest were slaughtered
3. The standard pattern of Israel was set in history: they stumbled over the stumbling stone... genuine repentance, forsaking their own righteousness, humbly trusting in God alone for salvation... there would always be a remnant of humble godly trusting Jew who did not stumble... but most of them did
4. That pattern reached its low point with their rejection of Christ
5. The Jews thought they could save themselves through their own efforts
6. What was military in the days of Assyria and later Babylon became religious in the days of the Pharisees
  - a. The military experts probably counseled King Hezekiah to make military preparations and put his trust in his weapons and efforts
  - b. Hezekiah believed Isaiah and rejected that approach... he put on sackcloth, went into the temple of the Lord, confessed his sin and that of his people humbly, and let God save Him in a way that God alone would get the glory
  - c. The religious experts of Christ’s day tried to save themselves by their lawkeeping, their self-efforts
    - i) But today’s lawkeeping cannot erase yesterday’s sins
    - ii) AND today’s lawkeeping cannot change our essentially sinful hearts
  - d. The way of the self-confident self-righteous religious rule-keeper is forever rejected... their way of humble trust and repentance is the only hope

#### C. Christ a “Stumbling Stone”

1. **Christ’s message** a stumbling stone

*Luke 13:1-3 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other*

***Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.***

- a. Judgment from God is coming
- b. If you try to save yourself through your own efforts, you will be destroyed
- c. If you humble yourself and accept my gift of salvation you will be saved
- d. Your righteousness is nothing; only my perfect righteousness is enough for you
- e. This message was a stumbling stone

**2. Christ's Person** is a stumbling stone

- a. They could not accept this one thing: Christ's deity
- b. They stumbled consistently over it, and His claims to deity were consistently rejected

***John 10:31-33 Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, <sup>32</sup> but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" <sup>33</sup> "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."***

**3. Christ's Death** is a stumbling stone

***1 Corinthians 1:23 we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles***

- a. His substitutionary death on the cross meant that He hung on a tree as a rejected curse
- b. The Jews were brutally offended by a Messiah who was slaughtered in such SHAME
- c. They wanted a triumphant Messiah who would destroy Gentile soldiers and emperors and rule forever on David's throne
- d. A crucified Messiah was BRUTALLY OFFENSIVE to the Jews

Christ, virgin born God in the flesh, who lived a sinless life and died a curse-bearing death, was a stumbling block to the Jews... so also was the message of the gospel: unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Pharisees and teachers of the Law you will not be saved; simply by repentance and trust are you saved! CHRIST WAS A STUMBLING BLOCK IN EVERY WAY TO THE JEWS

## V. Everyone Who Trusts in Him Will Never Be Put to Shame

### A. The Majestic Promise of The Gospel: Salvation by Faith

1. Comprehensive promise: ANYONE who trusts in Him...Jew or Gentile
2. No works, just simple faith: trust
3. Promise: never be put to shame

### B. Shame: The Deadly Fear of All Sinners

1. Garden of Eden: Adam and Eve sinned, their eyes were opened and they were ashamed
2. They also hid from God
3. Psychologically, one of the greatest fears a human being has is of public humiliation, of being publicly shamed

### C. The Greatest Shame Yet to Come for Unbelievers

1. Judgment Day is a day of FULL EXPOSURE
2. All our secrets will be exposed

***Luke 12:1-5 Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. <sup>2</sup> There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. <sup>3</sup> What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs. <sup>4</sup> "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. <sup>5</sup> But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.***

3. For unbelievers, the greatest shame is rejection by God because of those shameful sins

***Matthew 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.***

### D. Christ the End of Shame for Believers

1. We will be covered in His perfect righteousness by simply faith
2. We will shine in that gift of righteousness, and His perfection will cover all our shame

3. Our trust will remove all shame before God's holy eyes and before angels and men
4. We will stand totally accepted in Christ, welcomed into heaven, with no shame whatsoever!!

***Revelation 21:2-4 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."***

## VI. Application

- A. A Far sterner test than Assyrian invasion is coming... What are you trusting in?
  1. many trust in their basic goodness; or their wealth; or their genealogy; or their gifts to charity; or their religious service
  2. What are YOU trusting in to survive Judgment Day?
- B. Self-righteousness will fail on Judgment Day as much as military skill failed to defeat the Assyrians
- C. Jesus Christ offers a gift of perfect righteousness for us... HIS OWN... received by simple faith
- D. DON'T TRUST in yourself, DON'T TRUST in your achievements... trust in Christ
- E. Don't stumble over Christ: His message (repent or perish... your righteousness is not enough); His person: God in the flesh; His death on the cross
- F. Trust in those things: His promise of eternal life based on His own perfect righteousness; His person—God in the flesh; His blood shed for you
- G. When you venture forth in ministry, don't trust in yourself, your own resources, your own strength... TRUST IN CHRIST to finish His good work in you and His good works through you