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Bob Bradley

Is it Well With Your Soul?

CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON

Is it Well With Your Soul?

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Bob Bradley

Revelation 20:11-15

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:8

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Last Wednesday night we talked a little bit about hell. Do you remember that? The Greek word for hell is actually "**Hades**." Hell or Hades is the "place where the departed dead go." Whether we are saved or whether we are unsaved; hell or Hades is the place of the departed dead. We know that hell is made of different compartments. We talked about this last week and we are not going to go through all of that so if you missed that then you should have been here. Hell is made up of two compartments. One place is called paradise. The other place is called torments. The Bible tells us that in between these two areas there is a great gulf. That is the place where the departed souls of people go waiting upon the resurrection depending upon which resurrection they are going to be a part of.

The Bible says here, that I read to you tonight; out of **Revelation 20**, we think sometimes that God is never going to judge us. We think that God is never going to cast anybody into a lake of fire because the Bible says that God is love. We know that God is love. We know the very origin of love—that's God. He is the One. All love issues forth and comes forth from Him. We understand that. We also know that God is a consuming fire. We also know if we read and study the Bible that when people are disobedient to God then we know that God judges people. Even in judgment, God still yet loves people.

Here in **Revelation 20**, it is a great chapter. It is probably one of the greatest misunderstood chapters in all the Bible. However, in Revelation 20, when you read the verses that are here, it covers a thousand years. These verses in chapter 20 of Revelation cover a thousand years.

Let us look at something here then we are going to get to what we are going to talk about. This is just for a little bit of information so that we can know where that we can put this in the history of things. Today, we are living in Grace, the church age. We also understand that there is going to be a time that when Jesus Christ is going to come, He is going to appear in the clouds and He is going to call the church out of here. We understand that don't we. We don't know when that day is. We don't have any idea. The Bible calls it the snatching away, or the carrying away; we know that it talks about that. Then we also know that when that takes place, then we know that anti-christ and all of his cohorts are going to have free course on planet earth. We know that the earth and those living through a great period of tribulation. We understand as we read the Bible that at the end of tribulation when it looks like man is going to destroy themselves, Jesus made the statement, "...except those days be shortened..." What days? The days of tribulation, it talks about. "...except those days be shortened there should be no flesh saved..." What that means is if He doesn't come back and put a halt on what mankind is doing then mankind would destroy themselves. However, Jesus is going to come back and He is going to stop that.

He is going to come back and set up a kingdom. The Old Testament speaks about a kingdom. The prophets wrote about a time when the Messiah would set up a kingdom and that there would be peace on earth and good will toward men. The Bible says that the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the water now covers the sea. It shall be a time when there would be no enmity. What that means is that dogs and cats fight today. If you watch lions, they will kill sheep. Bears will kill sheep. There are certain things that kids cannot play with today because of the dangers that are there. There is coming a time when that is going to be gone. There is coming a time when the bear and the lamb will lay down together. They will be completely in harmony. A time when a child can play with the poisonous snakes and not have to worry about being hurt or harmed because the enmity that has been there because of Adam's sin is going to be taken away with.

The Bible says this; not only that but men are not going to be having war. This world is not going to be having war as we have today. The Bible says that men are going to take their swords and beat them into plow shears and their spears in the pruning hooks. They are not going to make war or say anything about war anymore in my holy mountain saith the Lord. That is in the book of Isaiah. It is there. It is going to be a time of great peace. It will be a time of great peace on earth. If you read the book, longevity is going to come back. Men that are a hundred years will be considered as a child. That is in there. There is going to be a great time on planet earth and you and I are going to be a part of that. We are going to be a part of that. We are going to be assisting in the government and in the things that are going to be going on planet earth during that time.

However, when that time comes to an end, what we are going to read about tonight is the great white throne of judgment. The unsaved are going to be judged. The Christian people, those who are saved; we have already went to the judgment seat of Christ, a long time before this. At least a thousand six or a thousand seven years before this. Saved people have gone to the judgment seat of Christ and we have

received our rewards because of our works and things that we did that have glorified God. We have gone there and we have received our rewards.

When we get to **Revelation 20:11**; the Bible deals with the unsaved. You see, sometimes we think that when Jesus comes—I've heard this all of my life, before I got saved—there is going to be a big explosion and saved people are going to go to heaven and lost people are going to go to hell and it would be all over. Well, the Bible does not teach that. The Bible does not teach anything even close to that. However, when we get to Revelation 20 here, it covers a thousand years and it covers a time when satan is going to be bound. When you read the first part of chapter 20, you will find out that there is an angel dispatched from heaven. He comes down and he has a great chain in his hand. He lays hold on satan, that dragon, Lucifer and he puts a chain around him and binds him for a thousand years. That is another reason that we are going to have peace on earth is because satan is going to be bound. He is not going to be running loose and he is not going to be tempting men and doing all that he is doing today to get men to fight in the war.

We want to talk about the great white throne judgment. That is what we want to talk about tonight. This is going to happen at the end of the millennium. Millennium means a thousand; that is all that it means. The prophets spoke about a kingdom. The prophets spoke about the time when Jesus would rule and reign. Here in Revelation chapter 20, it tells us how long that is going to be and it is going to be for a thousand years. Here is what happens.

In **Revelation 20:11**, it says:

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Many people today, even a lot of people who go to church do not think that there is going to be a final judgment. They do not think that there is going to be a time when God is going to judge the wicked dead. However, there is going to be a time. This time that we are reading to you about tonight, the great white throne, is the time when the wicked dead [will be at the great white throne.] All those that have died from the time of Adam until the last individual that will be born on planet earth, all those who never accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior is going to be here at the great white throne judgment.

It says, "...the great white throne..." What makes it so great? The God of heaven is going to be sitting upon the throne. That is what is going to make it so great. The God of all eternity, the Creator of all of heaven and earth, mankind, and everything that is here; He is the One who is going to be sitting upon the throne. That is going to make it great because He is great. Truth?!

There are many benches in our court system today where we have people who are corrupt upon these things. We have many corrupt judges. The judge who will sit upon the throne this particular day is not a corrupt judge. He is not going to be a corrupt judge. He never was a corrupt judge. My friend, He is the Creator. He is the Omnipotent One. He is the sovereign governor of this whole universe. That is who is going to be sitting upon the throne and that is what is going to make it great.

He says "...the great white throne..." Do you know what "white" represents? It represents "purity." It represents "righteousness." It represents "holiness." When we see the God of all eternity sitting upon the throne, when you read John 5, you will find out that God has committed all judgment unto the Son. When we look here, we are seeing Jesus Christ. He is the Creator. He is the One who created everything. He is the One who is going to be sitting upon the throne. There is a reason for that. He is righteous and we understand that. He is pure and holy. Isn't He? The Bible says "a great white throne" and He is sitting there.

Picture this in your mind. A throne that there is no doubt in my mind that there is going to be—if we would be there to look at it; it would be pure. There would be all kinds of light radiating around it. Do you know what is not going to be there? When you read Revelation 4, when you and I are caught up in the rapture and taken out of here, John says, "when I got there," he sees the throne. He sees the One sitting upon the throne. He sees the four and twenty seats that are there and four and twenty elders. He sees all of that. However, do you know what He sees around the throne? He sees a rainbow around the throne. Do you remember reading that? It is in Revelation 4. Do you know what the rainbow is a symbol of? It is a symbol of mercy. Truth?! When you read back in the time of Noah, God put the bow in the clouds and He told Noah back there: "I'm going to put my bow in the clouds and when you see it rain, you can look and see the bow and know that I will never again destroy the earth with water. That is a sign of mercy. Do you know what you are not going to see at the great white throne judgment? You are not going to see and have any mercy. Truth?! Do you know why? It is because man has gone past that. Man has stepped across the bounds of mercy. There was a time when men could experience mercy but when they get there on this day, there will be no mercy.

Jesus, himself, is sitting upon the throne. There will be No mercy. There will be righteousness, holiness, purity but no mercy. Get that because that is truth. "Preacher surly Jesus wouldn't do that? He healed people. He saved people. He rescued people." He did that. He did all of that but He also gave you opportunity to come to Him. He has drawn you, stirred you, and gave you opportunity after opportunity to come and follow Him. Do you know what you said? "Not today. Not now. I do not need that. I don't want that." Mercy will be gone if you are standing at the great white throne, there will be no mercy. There will be "Justice."

Today, in our court systems, if you have enough money, you can buy your way out of anything. We have seen that in the last ten or fifteen years. People who were guilty and were set free. Do you know why? It is because of money. Friend, on that day there will be total Justice. You will not be buying your way out of anything. You will be receiving total justice. It is not going to be a pretty sight.

Get this.

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

When you read that, get what happens. Here the white throne judgment is about to begin. Jesus Christ, himself, is sitting on the throne. Around Him, there will be untold millions and probably billions of people. People everywhere, small, great, rich, poor, bond, free and we are going to talk about those

folks in a minute. However, they will be everywhere around this throne that Jesus Christ is sitting on. Then all of a sudden—do you know what is going to happen? The earth that we know, the earth that we are standing upon today, the atmospheric heavens that we look out here in; they are going to go away. They are going to pass away. The Bible says when we read the book of Peter, “With a great noise the elements shall melt with a fervent heat. The works and everything therein shall be burnt up.” The Bible says as I just read to you...

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Get that. That is important in this study. The men and women who are standing before this great white throne—do you know where they have come from. Many of them have come from planet earth. They have come from earth; they had been alive but they are here now. Not only that, but we also know the dead are there. The place where they have lived and committed their sin, the place they had so much confidence in, their homes, their jobs and the things that kept them from giving their lives to the Lord; they see it all gone. The things that they held so dear to them are all gone.

I talked to a man this week who I know that he wants to get saved. However, do you know what he does not want to do? He does not want to quit doing this and this. He does not want to quit loafing with this bunch. He does not want to quit doing these things over here. He likes to be around Christian people. He likes to talk to me and he wants to ask me questions. He is a good fellow to be around but he wants to live over here. Do you what he does not think? He does not think that God would ever judge him. He does not think that there is going to be a time that he is going to stand before the God of all eternity. That is not the case.

There is going to be a time when every individual who has rejected Jesus Christ is going to be standing before HIM. Do you know why He is sitting on the throne? It is because He is the One you have rejected. He is the One that died at Calvary. He is the One that shed His blood to save you. You have rejected Him. The One sitting on the throne, you have rejected HIM.

Look what it says here.

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

When you read that, you would think that it is talking about heaven and earth. However, it is not. When it says, “there is found no more place for them...” do you know who he is talking about? He is talking about all the untold millions who are standing here at the great white throne. Could you imagine standing there and seeing planet earth gone? Could you imagine standing there and thinking “Maybe I’ve got a chance. Maybe I am going to get to go back home. Maybe I am going to get to go back to planet earth. Just maybe that is going to happen.” However, to see earth gone, to see the atmospheric heavens gone; there was found no place for them. Here they are the untold millions and millions of people with no place for them. There is no place to go now. There is no place for them to go and run. When you read Revelation 6, when tribulation actually begins and when the bombs and missiles begin

to happen do you know what people did? They run to the rocks and the mountains. Do you know what they did? They cried out to the rocks and mountains to hide, to fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sits on the throne. That is in Revelation 6. There is nothing going to hide them any longer. They may have hid in the disguise of religion. They may have hid in the disguise of a church membership. They may have hid under the disguise of all kinds of things. However, now when they stand before the great white throne there is nothing to hide them. There is nothing to hide them. There is nowhere for them to run. There is nowhere for them to go. I hope that you get that. I hope that you understand that. They cannot go to heaven because the righteous has already left. The first resurrection has already taken place. You see heaven and earth are already gone. There is no place for them but to stand here before the God of all eternity, Jesus Christ at the great white throne.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

John said, "I saw the dead..." the spiritually dead, "great and small." There is no doubt, when I read these scriptures, that there is going to be people who has been dead for thousands of years who are going to be here. They are going to be resurrected and brought here. There is no doubt in my mind that there is going to be people transferred here, brought here and it does not really matter; they are all going to be alive. They are going to be in a place here where they are going to be very aware of what is going on. However, they are spiritually dead. There are no saved people. Could you imagine being here in these untold millions of people around you everywhere on every side and not one of them saved? Could you imagine being in a place like that? Could you imagine being in a place where child molesters and dope addicts, murderers, thieves, and all kinds of perverts are going to be there. There is going to be millions of them. There are going to be millions of them. If you are there at this judgment, you are going to be standing right in the middle of them.

Oliver Green, many years ago, I believe, preached a message about who is going to be your neighbor in hell. There are going to be some people in hell that you would never live beside of on planet earth. You are going to go spend eternity in a lake of fire with people that you would never associate with on planet earth. Not that we are better than anyone else is, but the lifestyle that people lives we do not want to be around. We do not want to raise our kids around where child molesters are at. Do we? In hell, if you go there to the lake of fire, you are going to be right there beside of them. Side by side, husbands and wives, side by side with all kinds of wicked, vile, ugly, mean, and terrible people. The sad part about this is that many people who will go to the lake of fire will be people who have went to church all of their lives. That is the sad thing about it all.

You might say, "Preacher, you shouldn't say things like that." Here is the reason I can say that. When you read the book, do you know what you can find out? We can read the book, some of the stories and parables in the Bible when Jesus had given some talents and different things and passed them out and they come back and was giving an account of their stewardship and so forth. Jesus made the statement to some of them, "Depart from me ye that work iniquity into everlasting fire/damnation." Do you know what some of them said? They said, "Lord, we preached in the streets. Lord, we cast out devils in thy

name. In thy name we have done many wonderful works.” However, do you know what Jesus said? He is going to say to them “Depart from me. I never knew you into everlasting fire/condemnation.” Do you know what? There are going to be many people who have went to church all of their lives that is going to spend eternity in a lake of fire.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

“...small and great...” I think about small people; he was not talking about midgets. He is talking about people that we would look at on planet earth today as we would look at people. They are common, ordinary people, the blue-collar workers, people who work hard. They are supporters of their family. They are hard working. They are honest. They are the laborers. They dig ditches, weld, and all kinds of different things. These blue-collar workers are the people that John is talking about. John said, “I saw them there. I saw the common people who, no doubt, worked hard on planet earth.” He said, “I saw the great.” He saw orders of companies. He saw presidents. He saw kings. He saw preachers. He saw all kinds of superintendents, foremen, and owners of businesses. He saw all kinds of people that we look at today as being great people. He saw religious people. He saw all kinds of politicians here that we look at being great people. John said, “I saw them there. I saw the common people. Then I saw the other group. I saw the upper echelons. I saw the great ones as the world looks at them who live in luxury. I saw those who have servants waiting upon them.”

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

That is where they are. They are standing before God. They are not standing before the pope, priest, president, preacher; but they are standing before Almighty God. There are millions upon untold millions of people standing before God.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Bible is going to be there because that is the standard that God has given mankind to live by. Not only will these books be there, but also God understands and knows everything that these guys have done because He has it recorded in a book. Not only is there a book in heaven that records all the wicked deeds of man; but also the book of life is here too. As I read through the Bible, there is no doubt in my mind when someone is born naturally, fleshly, when a baby is born on planet earth; their name is put into the book of life. You may not agree with that but that is okay. In my mind, if I understand things correctly, when an individual is born then his name is placed in the book of life. However, the sad part is that when men die, if they die unsaved then their name is blotted out of the book of life. The Book of Life is here and the record of how that people lived here on planet earth is here. The evidence is here. It is going to be crystal clear. You are not going to be able to deny not one

thing. You are not going to be to say, "Lord, that wasn't me; it was somebody else because the record is going to be there." The record that the God of heaven is keeping and I promise you, it is the right record. The record keeping that many businesses are keeping today may not be much today but the record that God is keeping is a record that is right, and you can count on it.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

The record that God has; mankind is going to be judged by. The very base of the judgment, the very basis that you are going to be convicted and cast into a lake of fire is what is in the books and what you have done. Every work, every evil thing that man that is going to be standing before here, before God on this particular day; every evil work that they have ever done is going to be here. They are going to be judged out those things that are written in the books. It won't be hearsay, not what someone else has said, not what may have happened, but you are going to be judged; the wicked dead is going to be judged out of the things that is written in the books. That is the book!

The reason this is so important is this. You are not going to slip by. When you get here, if you are standing here, there is nowhere else to go. Heaven and earth are gone. The atmospheric heavens and planet earth do not exist anymore. The only place left for you to go is the lake of fire. That is all that is left for you.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

It does not matter where you are. It does not matter if you killed yourself. It does not matter if you were buried at sea. It does not matter how you died, if you died unsaved then you are going to stand before Almighty God. God knows where you are. He said, "...death and hell..." the grave is going to give them that they have been holding. They are here. They are here, they are brought forth, they are resurrected, they are brought forth to stand before Almighty God. The Bible says death and hell was cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Imagine something just for a moment. If you are saved, you do not have a thing to worry about. You are not going to be in this massive number, if you are saved. However, if I didn't know for sure that I was saved, I promise you before I would leave this building, before I would lay my head on my pillow tonight; I would be finding me a place, or somewhere to repent to make sure that I am ready to meet the God of heaven. I would make sure that I am saved. I would make sure that I know beyond any shadow of a doubt that I have been born again. Do not allow the enemy to slip you some kind of a

counterfeit, not just being religious, not just being a church member, but to make sure that I have been born again. The lake of fire is a real place. It is a real place—a place where men are going to go because they have rejected Jesus Christ. It does not matter where you have been. It does not matter how you died. It does not matter how you lived here. If you rejected Jesus Christ then you are going to be cast into a lake of fire.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:8

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Do you know what the word “**fearful**” means? It means “coward” or “cowardly.” It means people that were afraid to confess Jesus Christ as their Lord. It means people who were afraid or were cowards and did not want to identify with Jesus Christ. That is who the fearful are. We have many people like that today. “Preacher, I’d love to get saved. I’d love to come to church, but I have all my friends and family so I don’t want to do that.” If you do not accept Him as your Savior, you are going to be standing here one day.

The “**unbelieving**” are those who simply “heard the message of the gospel and rejected Him.” They are going to be there. Everybody that is going to be there is going to be unbelievers.

The “**abominable**” in the Greek means “those that are polluted.” These are those who are “vile,” “filthy.” They are those who have lived and did all the “vices that are in this world,” and “did all the wicked things.” They are going to be there.

The Bible says, “**Murderers**.” We know that murderers are not going to go to heaven unless they repent.

The “**whoremongers**” are those that are “very immoral people.” They did “all the sexual things,” all the “sexual impurities,” all the “horrible sexual things that men and women do.” They are going to be there.

The Bible says, “**Sorcerers**,” or “those that read palms,” those that “mess with occult,” those that “deal with witchcraft.” It also brings out the use of illegal drugs. Drug addicts are going to go to a lake of fire. People who are not saved are going to go there.

“**Idolaters**” are going to be in the lake of fire. They are those who have allowed “homes” to be their god. They are those who allowed “jobs” to be their god. They are those who have allowed “money” to be their god, as well as, things, people and they have worshiped all these things. An “idol” is something that we worship, something that we put between us and Almighty God. That is what an “idol” is. They are going to be there.

“All liars” get this: it does not say people that tell big lies. Does it? It says “all liars.” If there are any people on planet, earth that I do not like to be around it is a liar. Do you know why? It is because you never know what they are going to tell when they leave you. When I go around people who are liars, I always want somebody with me. That is because they can always testify what I said and what I did not say. Liars are going to be in the lake of fire. Do you know what the sad part about it is? We have many liars that go to church.

I want you to know this.

If you are not saved, if you die, if life leaves this body and you have never received Jesus Christ as your Savior; this is where you are going to end up. There is nowhere else for you to go. I read that to you. There is found no place for them. In other words, you could not go anywhere else because everything else is already gone. You are going to be here and you are going to be judged according to the works that are in the books. A righteous judge sitting upon a throne that is going to judge you righteously and you are going to get exactly what is coming to you.

If you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are going to be taken, bound hand and foot and they are going to take you and cast you alive into a lake of fire.

Here is a thing about this judgment also, that makes it so horrible. I do not like to talk about that. I really don't. Do you know why? It is because some of my family is headed that way. Some of my friends are headed that way. However, I have to warn people where they are going. The thing about this judgment and the sentence that will be given on this day is that it can never be appealed. There will never be a time that it will be overturned because the judgment that you get will be just. It will be justified and it is for eternity. There will never ever be a time that the judge will send somebody to where you are at in the lake of fire and say, “Hey, he's been there long enough. Or, oops, we made a mistake.” That will never happen.

When you go there, you will be there day and night forever, forever, forever, and forever.

Does that sound like a place you want to go? I do not want to go there. Do you? If you are saved, you are not going to go there, but if you are not saved that is exactly where you are going to end up.

Find a safe place where you can call upon God. If you are not sure, let's make sure that you are ready to meet God tonight. Ask God to search your heart. Ask God to make sure. You need to make things right with God tonight.

While you have time, while God is speaking, while God is calling, you need to come and ask God to forgive you.

God knows all about you. God knows what you do when your family may not be around. When your husband, wife, children, preacher may not be around; God knows all of that because He has it in a book.

If you need to pray, if you need to ask God for forgiveness, please do that tonight. God is speaking. God is calling. Come—