

Speaking of Judges (Part 3)  
1 Corinthians 6:1-11

**1. St. Patrick's Perspective:**

- a. Biography
  - i. 16 the day around 430 AD when Irish warriors arrived, burned his town in Roman Britain to the ground and took him captive into slavery
  - ii. Patrick tended pigs for a cruel war lard, enduring long bouts of hunger and thirst, being treated more an animal than the animals he tended
  - iii. He had been a nominal Christian to this time, exposed to the claims of Christ on his soul by early missionaries to Britain, but in the isolation of captivity what had been nominal and meager became eager and essential
    - (1) "I would pray constantly during the daylight hours," he later recalled. "The love of God and the fear of him surrounded me more and more. And faith grew. And the spirit roused so that in one day I would say as many as a hundred prayers, and at night only slightly less."
  - iv. A bit more than six years after he arrived in Ireland, Patrick escaped his captor and returned to Britain; we know very little of his life; in his own autobiography he tells us of his call to return to Ireland
    - (1) "I had a vision in my dreams of a man who seemed to come from Ireland," Patrick wrote. "His name was Victoricius, and he carried countless letters, one of which he handed over to me. I read aloud where it began: 'The Voice of the Irish.' And as I began to read these words, I seemed to hear the voice of the same men who lived beside the forest of Foclut ... and they cried out as with one voice, 'We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us.' I was deeply moved in heart and I could read no further, so I awoke."
    - (2) Of his return Patrick wrote, "I dwell among gentiles, in the midst of pagan barbarians, worshipers of idols, and of unclean things."
    - (3) On one occasion Patrick wrote, "Daily I expect murder, fraud or captivity, but I fear none of these things because of the promises of heaven. I have cast myself into the hands of God almighty who rules everywhere."
- b. More can be said of Patrick, the missionary who brought the light of the gospel to the darkness of Ireland, but it is his eternal perspective on his temporary life, a lesson learned from the apostle Paul, that most helps us this morning.
  - i. "Daily I expect murder, fraud or captivity, but I fear none of these things because of the promises of heaven. I have cast myself into the hands of God almighty who rules everywhere."
  - ii. **What is now must be confronted in light of what is to come**
    - (1) Life now must be lived in light of life everlasting
    - (2) What we are and what we do now, in this day, must reflect what we will become in that final, ultimate, heavenly day

## 2. 1 Corinthians 6:1-11: Paul's Perspective

- a. Boundaries
  - i. Deals only with disputes among believers
  - ii. Deals only with civil suits and not criminal cases
  - iii. Deals with personal holiness and public reputation
- b. Requirement
  - i. **Maintain personal holiness through dependence on God and public witness through faithfulness to God.**
  - ii. Two perspectives for confronting sin in ourselves and in the church and maintaining God's grace before the world
    - (1) v. 11 - Conduct yourselves not as you were in the world but as you are now in Christ
      - (a) Paul grounds Christian ethics/conduct in Christian identity
      - (b) When you surrender your life to faith in Christ, when you respond to God's sovereign call to put your life in His hands, you do not come away empty handed
        - (i) You come away with a new life
          - 1) **2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.**
          - 2) **1 Corinthians 6:11 (ESV) <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**
          - 3) No longer
            - a) Desperate for things of this world
            - b) At risk of eternal loss
        - (ii) You come away with a new mission.
          - 1) **Galatians 2:20-21 (ESV) <sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. <sup>21</sup> I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.**
          - 2) **Habakkuk 2:14 (ESV) <sup>14</sup> For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.**
      - (c) Conduct your lives and relationships on the basis for a new identity and a new mission in Christ.
    - (2) Conduct yourselves as you are now in light of what you will be in the coming kingdom

- (a) vv. 2 Do you not know that you will judge the world
- (i) History
    - 1) **Psalm 49:14 (ESV) <sup>14</sup> Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol; death shall be their shepherd, and the upright shall rule over them in the morning. Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to dwell.**
    - 2) **Daniel 7:18 (ESV) <sup>18</sup> But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.'**
  - (ii) Jesus
    - 1) **Matthew 19:28 (ESV) <sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**
    - 2) **Matthew 20:23 (ESV) <sup>23</sup> He said to them, "You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."**
  - (iii) Revelation
    - 1) **Revelation 2:26 (ESV) <sup>26</sup> The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations,**
    - 2) **Revelation 3:21 (ESV) <sup>21</sup> The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.**
    - 3) **Revelation 20:4 (ESV) <sup>4</sup> Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**
  - (iv) The dominion that Christ restored to the human race through His sinless life, through His sacrificial death, and through His resurrection He shares with

His bride the people of God who live in faithfulness all the days of their redeemed lives.

(v) Now imagine the incongruity of taking worldly disputes before those over whom you will one day, reign in Christ,

(b) v. 3 Do you not know that you will judge angels

(i) We do not know with any certainty exactly what Paul means here.

1) Could mean ruling over angels as having restored dominion over creation

2) Could mean sitting with Christ in judgment over fallen angels

(ii) Paul's point remains: **the future in Christ, in eternity, holds authority for you that ought to determine how you conduct yourselves now.**

1) Consider the dignity of who you are

2) Consider the dignity of what you will be

3) Consider the grace and mercy and plan of God and act accordingly in all your relationships!

iii. John MacArthur notes,

(1) "All the resources of truth, wisdom, equity, justice, love, kindness, generosity, and understanding reside in the people of God."

(2) "Future rule will be based on perfect adherence to the word of God And proper godly attitudes, which are available now!"

**3. Now, as much if not more than ever in history, God's people need to live and conduct themselves in this world as though they are citizens of another!**

a. Be particularly careful of the reputation of Christ

b. Be particularly diligent for personal holiness

c. Be particularly eager to love one another: do everything necessary to assist one another in personal holiness and public witness