

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2022

Saturday, 7/16 at 4:00 | Sunday, 7/17 at 9:00

# REALITY CHECK

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Part 4

Text: NAS = 1977; NAU = NAS 1995

**Introduction:** **Dear Friend:** This is the *fourth* and *final* part of the series: **Reality Check!** Since we know ▶who God is, ▶what He has done, and ▶what He is doing now – *sustaining our lives and providing our needs*, we should respond by ▶respecting Him, ▶trusting Him, and ▶obeying Him!

*By God's grace* – some people are doing those things AND are blessed now and forever, *BUT others are in grave trouble* – due to ☹deception, **or** ☹lack of knowledge, **or** ☹persistent rejection of the Holy Spirit.

In this sermon, let me ❤give you some reasons to repent and ❤share a key comparison with Jesus' return.

## Some Reasons to Repent

1. The Opportunity Is Limited: Earlier in **Proverbs 1**, [wisdom](#), “the essence of divine knowledge and true understanding” (Kretzmann), called out to ▶the inexperienced, ▶those easily tempted, and ▶those openly denying or rejecting the truth – *to repent, to ▶turn from evil, ▶be open to the HS, and ▶trust in Jesus!* BUT sadly, *none gave a favorable response*, so this rebuke was given in **Proverbs 1:24-29 (NAS)**:

- a. “Because **I called**, and you refused; **I stretched out my hand**, and no one paid attention; <sup>25</sup> And you neglected all my counsel, And did not want my reproof; // Wisdom tried and tried, *but the unrepentant sinners ignored and ignored!*  
**Ignorers of God’s word are in horrible trouble!**
- b. <sup>26</sup> **I will even laugh** at your calamity; **I will mock** when your dread comes, <sup>27</sup> When your dread comes like a storm, And your calamity comes on like a whirlwind, When distress *and* anguish come on you.” // It sounds so cruel to laugh and mock, *but people bring it on themselves!*
- c. <sup>28</sup> “Then they will call on me, but **I will not answer**; They will seek me diligently, but **they shall not find me**, <sup>29</sup> **Because they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD.**” // When some people finally cry out for help, *it will be too late* 😞. To the five virgins who ▶were unprepared and ▶came late to the feast, Jesus said, “**I do not know you**” (Matt. 25:12 NAU).

2. The Consequences for the Unrepentant will be Severe:  
**Hebrews 10:26-31 (NAS):**

- a. ...if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. // What kind of people are being referred to? **Dr. Kretzmann** explained: The Bible “refers to a willful sin... that people that have come to the faith do not hold fast the confession of hope [the certainty in God’s promises] **without wavering, that**

they neglect the means of grace [*word and sacrament*], no longer attend church services, or [seldom attend] ... [Ultimately:] The denial of Christ is the sin, and the [hatred] of the means of grace is the road leading thereto [*first, refusing to hear the word, then, denying Christ*]. People that become guilty of this sin do so purposely, with deliberate intent, and they go on sinning, they persist in their transgression.... And in their case it holds true that the sacrifice for sins no longer exists for them.... What they have to expect, therefore, is the terror of the Last Judgment, of the final doom; what they must look forward to is the fury of the fire of hell, which will consume and destroy forever, throughout eternity, the adversaries of the Lord.”

- b. **Anyone** who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on *the testimony* of two or three witnesses [*Deut. 17:6*]. **How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who**  
 ➡ has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and  
 ➡ has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant [*that is, Jesus’ holy precious blood*] by which he was sanctified, and ➡ has insulted the Spirit of grace [*whom he persistently ignored*]? // OT: Two witnesses > no mercy > death! **HOW MUCH WORSE for all who** ✦ trample Jesus, ✦ act as if His blood is unclean, and ✦ spurn the HS ☹☹☹!!!
- c. ...It is a **terrifying thing** to fall into the hands of the living God. // Kretzmann: “If we believers... willfully... deny the saving truth... and [wickedly] spurn all offers of salvation, we have no one but

ourselves to blame if the terrible vengeance of God strikes us on the last day.”

Reasons to Repent: The opportunity is limited, and the consequences will be *SO SEVERE* and *SO FOREVER!*

### A Key Comparison with Jesus' Return

3. A Key Comparison: Jesus said these words on Holy Tuesday – *three days before He laid down His life*:  
<sup>NAU</sup> **Matthew 24:37-39** “For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.” // Noah told them the truth, *but they ignored it!* **DON'T BE LIKE THEM!**
4. The Days of Noah: <sup>NAU</sup> **Genesis 6:5** ...*the wickedness of man was great on the earth...* // *The same is true today!* So, **no matter** ♦ who you are or ♦ what you have done, **God** loves you, **Jesus** died for you, and **God is calling you to be fully open to hear and heed God's word** – unto ♦ forgiveness, ♦ peace, and ♦ eternal life!

**Let Us Pray**: Dear Father in heaven, You are **so great** and **so good**, yet *so many have rejected* ♦ You, ♦ Your Son, ♦ the Spirit, ♦ Your word, and ♦ Jesus' called servants. Since You desire all to repent and live, *for all who are dead in their sins*, ♦ show Your mercy one more time and ♦ move them to repent today!

PS: For a summary of the series, watch for a Reality Check brochure today or next week!

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