Honour the Father and the Son

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Preacher: Richard Weightman

[0:00] Good morning. Nice to be here this morning. Nice to see everybody. I was reading the news this morning and there was a story on from Nicky Campbell, the journalist and broadcaster and the headline was how I've learned that certainty is the thing to really fear.

And I sat and thought about that and thought I skimmed the article and I thought it's a really dangerous thing to say. The article, nobody's trying to say, he's talking about the certainty that seems to be out there now amongst everybody.
I'm right. You're wrong. There's no middle ground. You know, my position's right. We can't agree to disagree anymore and so on. But I just wanted to say that that headline, which I'll bring up again, that says, how I've learned that certainty is the thing to really fear.
There's nothing to fear in the certainty of Jesus. And I just want to say that first thing this morning. There's nothing to fear in the certainty of Jesus, who he is and what he is, what he's done and what he's doing.
And I just wanted to say that right at the start this morning before we begin. And I hope that through what I say this morning, we will see that that is true. There's no fear in the certainty of Jesus.
[1:23] So we're continuing the series in the Gospel of John. And this morning's title is Honor the Father and the Son. Now, this morning, I was looking at this and getting ready and looking to see this passage.

And it's a key passage in Scripture in establishing the deity of Jesus, that Jesus is God, his unique relationship with God as Messiah, the perfect representation of God, able to give life and carry out judgment.
It's a key passage in the Holy Spirit.
Amen. Amen. Amen. And that's what it will cover this morning. So as Betty Davis once said in a much misquoted line from a film, fasten your seatbelts, we're in for a bumpy ride.
She actually said fasten your seatbelts, we're in for a bumpy night. But fasten your seatbelts, we're in for a bumpy ride. And it will necessarily be quite a quick ride through as we go.
[3:02] So next slide, please, Josh. I'm going to read the passage, John 5, chapter 16, verse 16 to 30. So because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him.

Jesus said to them, Jesus gave them this answer.
I tell you the truth.
Over the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.
I tell you the truth. Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned. He has crossed over from death to life.
[4:31] I tell you the truth. A time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.

And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of man. Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out.
Those who have done good will rise to live and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.
By myself I can do nothing. I judge only as I hear.

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And my judgment is just. For I seek not to please myself, but him who sent me. Amen. And may God bless the reading of his word.
Now the first thing to say before even we move on to the next slide. The Jews were criticizing Jesus for working on the Sabbath in effect.
[5:36] And Jesus said, my Father is always at work. There's that word, always at work. Sabbath or no Sabbath. God is always at work.

And one of the songs we sang this morning talked about the universe hanging together. There's something in that line in one of the songs. And if God wasn't at work all the time, things would not hang together anymore.
God is always at work. And that's how things all hang together. Next slide please, Josh. So, why should we honor the Father?
So Isaiah chapter 46 and verses 10 to 11 says, I make known the end from the beginning. From ancient times what is still to come. I say, my purpose will stand.
And I will do all that I please. What I have said, that will I bring about. What I have planned, that will I do. Next slide please.
[6:38] God has a plan. Isn't that good news? God has a plan. God has a plan for this world. For what happens after this world.

And if God has a plan for the world and everything in it, then God has a plan for you and God has a plan for me. And that's something to be excited about, isn't it?
God has a plan for us all. So we'll go back. We'll start right at the beginning. The age of creation. And the fall. The fall was when Adam and Eve.
Eve took a bite of the apple that she was told not to eat the fruit. And she took a bite. And sin entered the world. That's what we talk about when we talk about the fall.
That sin entered the world. And then the covenants, which I'll talk about in a few minutes. So Genesis 9, verses 9 to 11 says, I now establish my covenant with you.
[7:35] This is Noah. And with your descendants after you. Never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth. Never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.

That's not how the earth will be destroyed. Genesis 17 says, As for me, God, this is my covenant with you, Abraham.
Or Abraham, as Abraham became. You will be the father of many nations. And this was an old man who thought any chance of having children had gone. And here was God saying, I'll make a covenant with you.
You will be the father of many nations. And God went on to covenant with Isaac and Jacob, whose 12 sons became the 12 tribes of Israel.
And later, God covenanted, agreed, put an agreement together with Moses and Israel on Mount Horeb. And the establishing of that covenant was the giving of the law that the Jews lived by.
[8:38] Next slide, please. So there we are, the age of the law and of judges, of kings and prophets, of exile and restoration. The law was given to Moses.

There was the installing of judges to rule or reign over Egypt. God didn't want Israel to be like the other nations. He didn't want them to have kings. All the other nations had kings.
And the Israelites went on and on and on about, We want a king. We want a king. God wanted them to have judges. That was his plan for them to have judges. But eventually, he said, Right, you will have kings like other nations.
And so there were the kings who came along, including David and his son Solomon. And then there was a division into two kingdoms, Israel and Judah.
Israel, the northern kingdom, Judah, the southern kingdom. There was the ongoing sin of the Jews. They just sinned. They were told not to intermarry with people from other nations, of the nations that they conquered.
[9:43] Don't intermarry. Don't worship their gods. What did they do? They intermarried. They worshipped their gods. They sinned again and again and again, over and over. And then there were the warnings and foretellings of the prophets, including Isaiah, Daniel and Ezekiel.

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And here is where, you know, God's plan. Here's God's plan. Hundreds of years before Jesus, here's Isaiah and Daniel and Ezekiel talking about Jesus.
We know the peace from Isaiah. We talked about it a few months ago. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given. There we are. Hundreds of years before, there's Isaiah saying, Jesus is coming as a child.
He'll be born for you, to you. And Daniel says in chapter 7 and verse 13, One like a son of man, his kingdom will never be destroyed. He was seeing this vision of Jesus.
One like a son of man, whose kingdom will never be destroyed. And Ezekiel in chapter 1 and verses 26 and 27, High above on the throne was a figure like that of a man, and brilliant light surrounded him.
[10:57] There's Jesus, hundreds of years down the track. Hundreds of years down the track. But there is Ezekiel saying, there is the Savior. There is the Son of Man.

There is Jesus. Next slide, please. So we continue. Why should we honor the Father? The age of grace. The coming of Jesus as Messiah.
Unto us a son is born. Unto us a child is given. Here was Jesus coming as a child to live among us as Messiah. And his life and his ministry.
We read that in the scriptures. Jesus' life and his ministry. The feeding of the 5,000. The miracles. The raising of the dead. The healing of the sick. The giving sight to the blind.
On and on. His ministry. Just three years. But what a difference that ministry has made to history. The Messiah. Jesus and his ministry. And the new covenant.
[11:53] That for those of us who believe that Jesus came and died for us and shed his blood for us. There's the new covenant that we have with God.

The agreement with God that if we confess our sins. Say we're sorry for all the wrong things we've done. The wrong things we've said. And accept and believe that Jesus is the Son of God.
And he did die. And he was raised to life again. Then that new covenant is there for us. And we celebrate this every other week here in the communion.
We celebrate the shedding of Jesus' blood. And the giving of his body for us. That's the new covenant. The new relationship that we have with God through Jesus.
And then there's death and resurrection. He had to die. There's always a sacrifice. If you look back in the Old Testament. Sacrifice.
[12:51] The Old Testament. You could nearly wring it out. There's that much blood in it of all the sacrifices that go on. That were given in the law. Goats and sheeps and oxen. And goodness knows what.

Jesus came and died. And had to be sacrificed. There had to be a blood sacrifice. But that was once and for all. Once and for all.
We don't have to go through that anymore. Jesus has done that for us. He died. And then he conquered death. He was raised from the dead.
He conquered death. We don't have to fear death. Jesus went before us. And conquered death for us. And then before Jesus told his disciples.
Before he ascended back to heaven. That he would send them a counselor. The Holy Spirit. To come and live in us. When we become Christians. The Holy Spirit comes and lives in our hearts.
[13:52] And guides us and leads us. In our lives. Every day. And sometimes it's difficult. Because you think. Certainly when you're a new Christian.

You're battling between your old way. And your new way. And you want to do something. Or you want to say something. Or you want to read something. Or you want to watch something. And in your mind. The Holy Spirit is saying.
Maybe not. Maybe not. And that can be very difficult. And that can go on and on. That can still be the case. For years. We can. We can. Know.
We shouldn't be doing that. We shouldn't be saying that. Keep your mouth shut Richard. Don't say that. And the Holy Spirit's telling me. And that's what it is. The Holy Spirit comes.
And lives in you. When you know Jesus. As your Lord and Savior. And then the growth of the church. That followed from that. From those 11 disciples.

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[14:47] And then others who came along. The exponential growth of the church. In relatively few years. The church grew hugely.

Mainly word of mouth. One to another. One to another. And so on and so forth. So the age of grace. Which is what we're living in now. The age of grace. This is the age of grace.
That we live in now. Jesus grace to us. Next slide please Josh. So continuing. Why should we honor the Father?
Because there will be a judgment. For everyone. The dead. The living. The righteous. And the unrighteous. Unrighteous. And we will all stand. Before Jesus Christ.
It says in 2 Corinthians 5.10. For we must all appear. Before the judgment seat of Christ. That each one may receive. What is due to him. For the things done.
[15:44] While in the body. Whether good. Or bad. And in Acts 17.31. For he has set a day. When he will judge the world. With justice.

By the man. He. God. God. Has appointed. He has given proof of this. To all men. By raising him. Jesus. From the dead.
So a judgment is coming. Next slide please Josh. And in the passage from John. That we read. It says. Moreover. The Father judges no one.
But has entrusted. All judgment. To the son. And he has given him. Authority to judge. Because. And I've made a mistake here. He is.
The son of man. By myself. I can do nothing. I own a judge. Only as I hear. And my judgment. Is just. For I seek. Not to please myself.
[16:42] But him. Who sent me. When the age of judgment. Comes. God. Has given the authority. For judgment. To Jesus. In Habakkuk.

It says. Your God's. Eyes. Are too pure. To look upon. Evil. Or wickedness. We couldn't stand. In front of God.
God cannot look. On evil. Or wickedness. He cannot look. At us. But Jesus. Stands between us. Jesus. Stands between. God. And us.
And through Jesus. If we know Jesus. As our Lord and Savior. God. Sees us. As forgiven. All our evil. And all our wickedness.
Next slide please. Josh. The son will raise the dead. Again. In the passage from John. It says. For the father loves the son. And shows him all he does.
[17:42] Yes. To your amazement. He will show him even greater things. Than these. For just as the father raises the dead. And gives them life. Even so the son gives life. To whom he is pleased to give it.

Do not be amazed at this. For a time is coming. When all who are in their graves. Will hear his voice. And come out. Those who have done good. Will rise to live.
And those who have done evil. Will rise to be condemned. We read in the gospels. How Jesus raised the dead. To life. He raised Jairus' daughter.
He raised the widow's son. And he raised Lazarus. From death. To life. One day. Jesus. Who has now been given the authority.
By God. Will raise both the good. And the evil. To life. One day. He will raise everyone. To condemnation. Or to life.
[18:41] Next slide please. Why should we honor. The son. The son offers. Everlasting life. I tell you the truth.

Whoever hears my word. And believes him who sent me. Has eternal life. And will not be condemned. He is crossed over. From death to life. I tell you the truth.
A time is coming. And has now come. When the dead will hear. The voice of the son of God. And those who hear. Will live. For as the father. Has life in himself.
So he has granted the son. To have life in himself. To those who hear his voice. When they hear the gospel. And who obey and believe its call.
For God has given Jesus. His son. To have life. So when you. When we hear. The gospel. When we.
[19:40] Hear it in our lives. When it touches our hearts. And we respond. And Jesus will come to us. If we believe.

That Jesus lived. And died. For us. If we obey. The call. Then Jesus will give us. Life. Next slide please.

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Josh. The son. Will judge the world. Moreover. The father. Judges. No one. But has entrusted. All judgment. To the son.
And he has given him. Authority to judge. Because he is. The son of man. By myself. I can do nothing. I judge. Only as I hear. And my judgment. Is just.
For I seek. Not to please myself. But him. Who sent me. The son. Has been given. The right. To judge. By God. He will carry out. His judgment.
[20:35] On the unrighteousness. A judgment. Of condemnation. And on the righteous. A judgment. If you like. Of reward. Let's move on. To the next slide.

Josh. So how are we. To honor the son. How now. At this point. Are we to honor the son. I tell you the truth.
Whoever hears my word. And believes him. Who sent me. Has eternal life. And will not be condemned. He has crossed over. From death. To life. Hear.
And respond. To his voice. If you've not heard. Jesus voice. Yet. But you're hearing it now. Maybe for the first time. You need to respond.
Hear. Hear it. Listen to it. And respond. And cross over. From death. To life. And obey his voice.
[21:31] And follow his commandments. And his commission. In Matthew it says. Love the Lord your God. With all your heart. And with all your soul. And with all your mind. Love your neighbor.

As yourself. All the law. And the prophets. Hang on these two commandments. Love God. Love your neighbor. And the commission.
Go and make disciples. Of all nations. Hear God's voice. Listen to it. Make the decision. For him. And then do what he says.
Follow his commandments. And his commission. Next slide. Josh. Above all. Honor the father. Because he has planned.
The beginning. To the end. He has planned. The beginning. Genesis. If you like. To the end. Revelation. And he's planned.
[22:28] The end. From the beginning. He knew. What the end would be. From the beginning. He's planned. That. The end.

From the beginning. And honor the son. Because. He is the one. God has given. To save us. And the one. Who is worthy. To judge mankind.
He is. Worthy. One of the things. This morning. I've really. Enjoyed. Sitting there. Has been that. The pieces of scripture.
And the songs. This morning. I could have almost. Picked them myself. For this sermon. And that's not. Any accident. God's at work.
Next slide. Please. Josh. The righteous. Will be saved. From the judgment. Of condemnation. The righteous. Will be saved.
[23:24] From the judgment. Of condemnation. So if you've made. That decision. If you've made. That decision. That Jesus is. Your Lord. And Savior. Then. You are safe.

It says. I tell you the truth. Whoever. Hears my word. And believes him. Who sent me. Has eternal life. And will not. Be condemned. He has crossed over.
From death. To life. However. There's always a however. Or a but. Isn't there? However. We still. We will still. Have to give an account.
Of our lives. Says in Romans. For we will all stand. Before God's judgment seat. And in 1 Corinthians 3. It says. For no one can lay.
Any foundation. Other than the one. Already laid. Which is Jesus Christ. That's our foundation. That we've laid. Jesus Christ. It will be revealed.
[24:18] With fire. If it is burned up. He will suffer loss. He himself. Will be saved. But only as one. Escaping through flames. There will be things. In our lives.

When we. Come before Jesus. The things. That were not. The things. Of gold.
And silver. In our lives. The stubble. In our lives. Will just be. Will be burned away. In effect. And there will be rewards. In heaven. Our salvation.

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Is safe. Let me make. Absolutely clear. Here. Our salvation. Is safe. Once we. Believe. Jesus Christ. As our Lord. And Savior. But.
We will be rewarded. On what we do. With that salvation. We need to do something. With that salvation. That Jesus has given us. Because we will be.
[25:14] Before the judgment seat. Of Christ. For our. Rewards. Next slide. Please. But it doesn't stop there.

In Revelation 21. Verses 1 to 7. It says. Then I saw. A new heaven. And a new earth. For the first heaven. And the first earth. Had passed away. I saw the holy city.
The new Jerusalem. Coming down. Out of heaven. From God. 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 good. God. For the old order of things. Has passed away. He who overcomes. Will inherit. All this. And I will be his God.
And he will be my son. The final age. Of an eternal. New heaven. And new earth. Can't begin to imagine.
[26:12] Physically. You know. The laws of physics. And I was reading. I've got a book for Christmas. God. AI. And the end of history. By John Lennox. It's a 600 page.

Tom. So it took me a couple of hours. To read it. Get. You know. Really understanding. It's written by the. Mathematician. And scientist. And Christian apologist. John Lennox.
And. It was. Again. No coincidence. That I was given that. For Christmas. Before. Being given this particular. Title. For this sermon today.
But. And he talks about. You know. Physically. In the laws of physics. And chemistry. Can't imagine. A new heaven. And a new earth. But there's going to be. A new heaven. And a new earth. Forever. And ever. Amen. Next slide please. No more chances. Once we come.
[27:09] To judgment. There's no more chances. Says in Luke. Between us and you. A great chasm. Has been fixed. So that those who want to go. From here to you.

Cannot. Nor can anyone. Cross over from there. To us. This is the passage. Where. Jesus talks. Of the rich man. And Lazarus. The beggar.
And. The rich man. Is in agony. He just wants. A little touch. Of water. Because he's in the agony. Of eternal.
Banishment. From God. Eternal. That means forever. Banishment. From God. Whereas Lazarus. Is with God. That great chasm.
Exists. Once judgment comes. There's a great chasm. And we cannot cross over. Those who have not. Made the decision. For Christ.
[28:04] To take Jesus. As their Lord. And Savior. Are on one side. Of that chasm. Those who have. Are on the other side. Of that chasm. And it says.

You cannot cross over. Nor can anyone. Cross over. From there. To us. The decision. Has to be made. When you get.
The opportunity. Next slide please. And just before. I move on to this.
What can we learn. I just want to say. That. That chasm. On the one side. Is eternal. Punishment. Eternity. Eternity. Eternity.
Without God. Eternity. Without the Holy Spirit. Eternity. Without conscience. Without. Any goodness. At all. We know. The. The other side.
[28:58] The new heaven. And the new earth. No tears. No pain. No sickness. No in health. No deafness. No blindness. No dementia. But on the other side.

No God. So what can we learn. Well. A few things. We've learned. I think. I hope. As we've gone along. Thank God.
That he has a plan. It's clear. From Genesis 1. 1. Through to Revelation. There's a plan. There. It's not all random. It's not all guess work.
It's not all just. Throwing up in the. In the heavens. And. See how it comes down. It has a plan. The vital importance. Of linking. The old.

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And new. Testaments. We must never forget. The old testament. You know. We. We. Concentrate. And highlight. The new testament.
[29:51] And the work of Jesus. And what he. Does. And what he's doing. Through his holy spirit. Now of course. But. Remember. The beginnings. The fall. How sin came along.

The prophets. The kings. The judges. What was foretold. About Jesus. And about. The world. So. The vital importance. Of linking them.
Thank God. For Jesus. And for salvation. Through him. Thank God. That we can have. Salvation. Through Jesus. That he came. And he lived.
And he died. And he conquered death. For us. And that he would have done it. If there was only. One of us. He would still have done it. Jesus is.
The lamb of God. Whose precious blood. Has bought us. Now. The lamb of God. Refers back. To the Passover. When the. Jews. Came out of Egypt.
[30:47] After slavery. On the night of the Passover. They were told. To sacrifice a lamb. And put the blood of the lamb. Around their door posts. And when God passed over.

He would kill the firstborn of Israel. Sorry. Of Egypt. But no firstborn of Israel. Would be harmed. And that's. The lamb of God.
And Jesus is. The lamb of God. Whose precious blood. Has bought us. And he's the lion of Judah. Who conquered the grave. It's a great image that.
The lion of Judah. For those of us. Who see Narnia. You know. And the lion. Aslan. This figure of Aslan. The lion. The lion of Judah. Who conquered the grave.
Who rose from death. Hallelujah. Thank God. That Jesus is given. The task of judgment. The absolute holiness of God.
[31:43] Means we. Who are burdened by sin. And evil. Cannot exist. In the presence. Of a perfect God. But thank God. For Jesus. Who stands between us.

Jesus is worthy. To break the seal. There were seven seals. Perfect number. And open the scroll. And unleash.
The judgment. Of God. And finally. We need to learn. That. We need to have our name. In the book of life. I will never erase. His name.
From the book of life. It says in Revelation. We need to make sure. Our name is in the book of life. And it's a bit like. Who do you think you are? You know.
They go somewhere. To find out. About their family history. And somebody brings out. This huge tome. And they put the gloves on. You know. The white gloves. And they open the tome up. Like this.
[32:37] Great. Big heavy tome. And they look down. And say. Look. There's your family there. And that. You know. They'll scroll down one day. Open that tome. And there. May 1984.

Richard Waitman. Wow. I'm in the book of life. Are you in the book of life? You need to have your name. In the book of life.
Next slide please. Oh. Just go back. Sorry. I don't want this slide. To be seen for a moment. Now. How many people. Have ever seen.
Signed. Sealed. Delivered. On television. Signed. Sealed. Delivered. I know Vicky has. And Anne and I have. Well.
It's a series of. One hour programs. Initially. Romantic comedy dramas. And then a series of.
[33:34] Eleven television films. I think it's eleven. Maybe more now. And it's. Written. Produced. And directed. By a lady called. Martha Williamson. And she's regarded.

As one of the. Most important. Christians. In Hollywood. And. It's the story. Of. The United States. Postal Service's.
Lost. Letter. Office. It's sometimes called. The Lost Letter. Mysteries. And. And it's. It's this team. Of four. There's. There's two women. Shane. And Rita.
And two men. Norman. And then the boss. A man called. Oliver O'Toole. Who's a man of faith. And believes. That every lost letter. That comes. Or parcel.

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That they have to investigate. And try and get to the recipient. That's the sort of basis. Of the story. Has a divine purpose. And.
[34:30] And. And that's. The story. It's. And if you. If you. Certainly. If you get to see. The. The Christmas one. Signed. Sealed. Delivered. At Christmas. For me. It's probably.

One of. If not. The best. Christmas movie. I have ever seen. So. Just a little. Flavor there. And I'll be going home. Now on YouTube. Yeah.
So. And in one episode. Called. Lost Without You. There's been a sudden death. In the. Postal Service office. A lady called.
Eleanor. Who was in passports. Has died suddenly. And because she went to the same church. As Oliver O'Toole. He was asked to give the eulogy.
And so this is what he said. Next slide. So Oliver O'Toole said. As unexpected as Eleanor's departure was. We can take comfort remembering her.
[35:27] As a woman of strong faith. That traveled through life. With the blessed assurance. That her passport. Was eternally valid. Stamped. And certified. Permanent.

For entrance. Into the kingdom of God. Whenever that day should come. And friends. I know she would want us. To take a moment today. To really ask ourselves.
Are we ready to take that journey? She always used to say to me. Death. Is nothing to be scared of honey. But it is. Something.
To prepare for. Are you prepared? Are you prepared? Are you prepared? Now? Today? Is there a final slide?
Or is that it? Is it? Yeah. Yes. Are you prepared? Now? Or today? To make that journey? Is your passport?
[36:24] Stamped? Amen. Amen. Amen.

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