

Impostors in Our Midst

by John Legg

The sermon explores the reality of impostors in the church and the necessity of true faith and repentance in following Christ.

Duration: 48:56

Scripture: Matthew 7:16, John 3:16, Romans 5:8

Topics: "True Repentance", "Genuine Faith"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of true repentance, genuine faith, and living a lifestyle in alignment with God's Word. It challenges listeners to examine their hearts, repent of hidden sins, and ensure their faith is genuine by bearing good fruit. The message highlights the love of God displayed through Christ's sacrifice and urges individuals to come to the foot of the cross for salvation.

Transcript

Tonight I want to speak to you a message, which if you don't understand the concept of this message, your evangelism will be very skewed. And what I'm going to talk to you about tonight is not a new concept, to some of you it's going to be, but it's something that if you went back in the church a hundred years ago, it was very well known in the church. But today it's been forgotten, or maybe hidden.

I'd just like to open with a word of prayer. Father, I thank you for the ultimate sacrifice you paid for us. That your son, hanging upon that cross, that he took our place.

That there's absolutely nothing that we can do to earn anything with you. The things that we do, which we think are good, are as you say, filthy rags. They're disgusting in your sight.

Lord, I pray that through this message tonight, that you would help us all understand more of what it really means to follow you. And you bring clarity to some people's minds in relation to their relationship with God. Father, I ask that you give me the boldness to speak this message, and to not compromise.

In Jesus' name, Amen. Now if you have a Bible with you, you can turn with me to John chapter 6 and verse 60. If you don't have a Bible with you and you're a Christian, then start bringing a Bible to church.

No, don't laugh. Because the worst thing you can do tonight is just listen to what I say. Your responsibility as a Christian is to hear every message that comes from the pulpit, and then go back and be like the Bereans in the book of Acts and search the scriptures and see where these things are true.

Some of you are not going to like this message. But please be aware I'm saying it out of a love for you. As my fellow human beings, that's my only motivation.

No, that's not true. My first motivation is I want to glorify God. I want to speak the truth.

So if you're in John chapter 6 and verse 60... Excuse me. Actually, before I do that, I'm going to share a little bit more about my story through this message. But people have been giving their testimonies, so I think I'll give you a bit of mine.

I was a churchgoer for 11 years. Towards the latter end of that time, I youth pastored. I also went on to pastor a small church for three and a half years.

But it was only four and a half years ago that I got saved. Now some of you have no idea how that's possible, but hopefully by the end of this message you'll have a very clear picture. But John chapter 6 and verse 60.

Now the context of this passage we're going to read from verse 60 through to 71 is Jesus has probably preached the most or definitely one of the most profound sermons he ever preached about eating his flesh and drinking his blood. And we find here the disciples totally missed it. And even today we find that the Roman Catholics still totally miss it.

But starting in verse 60. Many therefore of his disciples, now note it says they were disciples. And the disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.

So these were Christians, they were followers of Christ, apparently. Many therefore of his disciples when they had heard this said, this is a hard saying, who can hear it? In other words, they were following Jesus and they thought what he had to say was good, what he was doing was good. But now, man, he's crossed the line.

What is he talking about? Eat my flesh and drink my blood. They totally missed what he was on about. In verse 61, when Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, does this offend you? Sorry guys, I'll tone it down a bit next time.

No, he didn't say that, did he? He said, and in effect he gives them something else that they might be offended at. He says, what and if you shall see the son of man rise up to where he was before? So guys, are you offended? What about this? Would you be offended at this? It is the spirit that makes alive and the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you, they are spirit and they are life.

Come on guys, I'm not talking about eating my literal flesh and drinking my literal blood. I'm talking to you spiritual words. That's the context.

But there are some of you that don't believe. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that didn't believe and who should betray him. And he said, therefore I said to you that no man can come to me except it were given to him of my father.

From that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him. Now that's John 6, 6, 6. So this is like the pastor is preaching from the pulpit and two thirds of the congregation get up because they don't like the message and they walk out and never return. But Jesus isn't finished.

In verse 67, then Jesus said unto the twelve, so he turns to his apostles, his elders or deacons if you like, and he says, will you also go away? What about you guys, are you going to go as well? So he didn't batter an eyelid. Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that you are the Christ, the son of the living God.

So for once Peter didn't have his foot in his mouth. Now there's many things we can get out of this passage, but maybe you notice something that I notice, this is really strange. How can these disciples that were supposed to be Christians, how can many of them left Jesus? How can that be so? How can that be so? Many of these people that are physically with Jesus, how can they have left him? Well, let's look at it from a slightly different angle.

There are some people today that claim we need to see lots of healings and miracles to see the multitudes come to Christ. Well, it didn't work in Jesus' day. Some people are thinking, what on earth is he talking about? Now Jesus no doubt healed hundreds if not thousands of people, didn't he? He cast out demons from people.

We know that he miraculously fed the 5,000 at Bethsaida and he also fed 4,000 on another occasion. He did many, many miracles. Anyone remember how many were left in the upper room on the day of Pentecost? 120.

Where were the multitudes that experienced the miraculous works of Christ? Where were they? Some people have said that they were probably in the crowd yelling, crucify him, crucify him. No, I don't know. But they weren't there on the day of Pentecost.

That was where the disciples were. Well, Jesus gives us a little bit of a clue as to why they may not have been there. Why multitudes experienced a touch from Jesus but never actually submitted to him.

In John 6 and verse 26, Jesus answered and said to them, verily, verily, and I'm reading from the King James, but we'll translate that into Aussie vernacular. He said, fair dinkum, mate. I say to you, you seek me not because you saw the miracles or signs, but because you did eat of the loaves and were filled.

Another translation says, truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me not because you saw the signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Now the word signs in the Greek language, the original language of the New Testament, it means a sign or a mark or a token. That by which a person or thing is distinguished from others and is known.

It was something that identified. So the word signs is probably a lot better translation. In Matthew 8 and verse 16 to 17, it says, when the evening was come, they brought to him, they brought to Jesus, many that were possessed with devils, and he cast out the spirits with his word, and he healed all that were sick, that it might be fulfilled, which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.

You see, the fact that Jesus was healing multitudes and casting out demons and doing miracles was supposed to be a very clear sign to the Jews that this was the Messiah. It was supposed to be a clear sign. But Jesus said, you haven't come to me because of these signs, that I'm the Messiah.

You come to me because you ate the loaves and you were filled. You came because of what you could get from me. You could get something out of me, that's why you've come.

The point here is that these multitudes of people hadn't come to Christ because of who he was, but they'd come because of what they could get out of him. Why did you come to Christ? Why did you come to Jesus? Did you come because of what you can get from him? Because you thought he'd give you a happier life? Because you thought someone told you he'd heal your marriage? He might give you a happier life? Make you prosperous? Did you know that 10 out of the original 12 apostles were executed? Judas hung himself and John was the only one who wasn't executed. They tried to boil him in oil.

Apparently it didn't work. Let me ask you something. If a bunch of terrorists burst through the door of this church right now, they had balaclavas on, they were holding machine guns, and they said, we are going to execute all of you Christians.

The only way you're going to leave this building without dying is if you denounce Christ. Very simple, just say this quick sentence, no, I reject Jesus Christ. How many of you would take up that offer? How many of you would be left sitting here in this room? Now you might say, oh, that sounds very radical, don't be silly.

Well, that's very much a truth and a reality for a lot of people in other countries today. In Egypt recently, a man ran into a church and just started grabbing people and started stabbing them in the chest because they were Christians. And he was from a religious group that hates Christians.

In India, there's all sorts of horrible things happening, women being drug off and raped and little girls being murdered and stuff from Christian families. Would you be going to church if you knew you might be stabbed in the chest? Would you give up Christ to save your own life? You see, Scripture speaks clearly of two different types of Christians. The true and the false.

The genuine and the fake. So let's define these imposters. Those who at first glance appear to be Christians, they appear to be following Christ, they appear to be disciples, but when examined in the light of what Jesus actually taught, something seems horribly wrong.

Now, Jesus spoke apparently to his disciples about a man that sowed seed in the field and it grew up, but weeds grew up with it as well. And his workers were puzzled, why did this happen and where did they come from? And the master who owned the field said, an enemy came in and did this. And they said, oh, do you want us to pull up the weeds? And he said, no, no, don't pull up the weeds because you might root up the wheat with it as well.

Just let them grow together and then when it's time for harvest, we'll get the weeds and we'll burn them. But the wheat, we'll take that and put it into the storehouse. Then in Matthew 13 and verse 36, Jesus sent the multitude away that were listening and went into the house and his disciples came to him saying, declare to us the parable of the tares of the field or the weeds of the field.

And in Matthew 13 verse 37, he answered and said to them, he that sowed the good seed is the son of man, obviously referring to himself. The field is the world. The good seeds are the children of the kingdom, but the tares or the weeds are the children of the wicked one.

The enemy that sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world and the reapers are the angels and therefore the weeds are gathered and burned in the fire, so shall it be in the end of this world. The son of man shall send forth his angels and they shall gather out of his kingdom, not out of the world, but out of his kingdom, all things that offend and then which do iniquity.

Now remember that word, we're going to come back to it again, iniquity. And shall cast them into a furnace of fire, there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their father, who has ears to hear, let him hear.

You see, not everybody that confesses Jesus to be Lord is a Christian. And maybe some of you can quote Romans 10, 9 verbatim, that if you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart the Lord Jesus and that God has raised him from the dead, you'll be saved. But see, this is not a Western book, nor is it an Asian book or a European book, it's a Middle Eastern book.

And this is the context that things need to be taken in. You see, for a Middle Eastern person, in biblical times especially, and even today to a certain degree, to give their word on something, it meant much more than it means to us Westerners. We sign contracts today and we'll break them just as easily as we sign them.

This is the context that Romans 10, 9 should be taken. Not some flippant prayer of, Jesus, I confess you as Lord, I confess my sins, thank you for your forgiveness, etc, etc, etc. And then keep going on and living their life in sin.

No, what it means is that, Jesus, you are Lord, you are God, I'm going to follow you and do what you say for the rest of my life. That's the context. If he's not Lord of all, he's not Lord at all, the common saying goes.

And there's much truth to it. You can turn with me to 2 Timothy 2. You see, for 11 years, I was going to church. Not all of that time, but most of that time.

I could speak the Christian rhetoric or the lingo just as much as anybody else, better than some. I was, I read my Bible a lot, a lot. You can see the Bible I had at the time, it's got highlighting all through it and underlining and all that sort of thing.

But how many people here know any book of the Bible off by heart? Anyone? Do you know the Pharisees? And even today, any practicing Jewish family, the boys have to learn the first five books of the Bible off by heart before their 12th birthday. That's Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, off by heart. You see, the Pharisees knew their scriptures better than you and I will ever know them.

I'm sure of that. But what did Jesus say to the Pharisees? He called them hypocrites. He called them blind leaders of the blind.

He called them whitewashed tombs full of dead man's bones. I also prayed fervently. However, my prayer closet, my private prayer, stayed pretty much empty.

I was with other people, I'd be praying away, emotions and stuff. But so does the Buddhist monk at your local Buddhist temple. I was even out on the street trying to evangelize.

I even made my own gospel tract. I pray that God helps those people that ever read that tract. It didn't have a very biblical message in it.

But so are the Mormons, so are the Jehovah's Witnesses. They're all out there evangelizing. You go to Melbourne, where I'm from, the most livable city in this country, I must say I'm appreciating the warm weather.

The Hare Krishna's are very evangelistic. They're out there handing out their leaflets on the street. See, a true Christian will love their Bible.

They will love to read the Word of God. They'll hunger after it. A true Christian will love prayer.

They will pray to God. They'll want to communicate with God. They'll go and lock themselves in private and they'll cry out to God and pray to Him.

And a true Christian will share their faith. Because if you've experienced God's grace, you want to tell other people about it. But it's not necessarily signs of a true Christian.

See, 2 Timothy 2 and verse 19 says something very interesting. You know, our works don't save us as Christians. Keeping the law will never save you because you can't do it.

But our works, our lifestyle, as the book of James spells out very clearly, they prove that we are saved. 2 Timothy 2 and verse 19, and the context here is Paul the Apostle is speaking against false teaching in the church. And he says, You see, the Lord knows those that belong to Him.

Now, I thank God that, as always, if we keep reading on in the Bible, it interprets itself. So who are those that are the Lord's? The Lord knows them that are His and let everyone, doesn't say some people, it says let everyone that names the name of Christ, that confesses Christ, depart from iniquity. There's that word again, iniquity.

Let everyone that confesses Jesus as Lord remove themselves from iniquity. Titus chapter 1 and verse 16 says, They profess they know God but their lifestyle totally denies it. See, to the undiscerning eye, I was a faithful Christian.

I was in church every time the doors were open. I was youth pastoring. And I was singing the songs and I love singing songs to God still today.

But my life was full of secret sins, hidden sins. I'd never repented of my sin. I'd never come and been broken before God.

And Jesus said, unless you repent, you'll perish. Unless you have a total change of mind towards sin and turn away from it and hate it, you'll perish. You see, a duck quacks because it's a duck.

It doesn't quack to become a duck. And it doesn't bark because it's not a dog. A duck by nature has to quack.

That's just what it does. And a Christian lives a holy life and pleasing to God because they've become a new creation in Christ. They don't live a holy life to become a Christian.

They don't live a lifestyle of sin because those who belong to Jesus Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. That's Galatians 5.24. By nature they'll live a holy life because they have the Holy Spirit living inside them. So I was in this position where I was confronted with the fact that I was living a lifestyle of sin, but saying, how can this be possible? I've been in church leadership.

I'm currently a pastor of a small church. How can I not be a Christian? I've seen all sorts of phenomenal things happen, miracles and all sorts of things. Well, I am so grateful for Matthew 7. If you want to turn there if you've got a Bible with you.

Matthew 7 cleared it all up for me. It took away all the confusion. Matthew 7.16-23 Now these are the words of Jesus himself.

He says, Neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that doesn't bring forth good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire. Now listen to what he says next.

He says, Not everyone that confesses Jesus as Lord will enter into the kingdom of heaven. And in verse 22, he says, Many, now in case you didn't get that, he said, Many will say to me in that day, referring to the day of judgment, Lord, Lord. So they're still calling him Lord.

They still believe that they're a Christian. Haven't we prophesied in your name? And in your name cast out devils and in your name done many wonderful works. And I will profess to them, I never knew you.

So you may think you know Jesus, but does he know you? And then he says, Depart from me, you that work iniquity. Now there's that word for the third time. You see, just because you seem to be spiritual, someone may have a manifestation of spirituality in their life.

It doesn't mean that you're a Christian. Remember Balaam's donkey? God used a donkey to prophesy to Balaam. God can use whoever he wants and whatever he wants.

It's not fruit. See, this word iniquity, which we've mentioned three times, what it means in the original language is illegality or lawlessness. Violation of the law.

And 1 John chapter 3 and verse 4 says that, Whosoever commits sin transgresses or violates the law. For sin is transgression of the law. We can't just tell somebody when we're sharing our faith, Oh, you've sinned against God.

Now we need to say that, but if we just tell them that, you know what? It leaves it up to their subjective opinion to decide what sin is. And the word sin means missing the mark. But what's the mark? The mark is God's holy law.

Keeping the law will not make you a Christian. Just like a duck, quacking doesn't make him a duck. And am I saying to you that a Christian is perfect and lives a sinless life? Well, of course not.

That would be ridiculous. 1 John chapter 1 and verse 8 says that, If I say I have no sin, I deceive myself. And the truth is not in me.

But think of it like this. Who here still has a septic tank on their property? A few of you, okay. When I was a young boy, about 8 or 9 in Melbourne, before piped sewerage came to the suburbs, we had a septic tank.

If you don't know what a septic tank is, it's a big concrete pit in your backyard where all the faeces and the urine goes from the toilet rather than being piped off to the sewerage farm. So if you've got a septic tank, you know that every now and again you've got to pull off the big lids and you've got to stir it. One of those jobs that everyone loves to do.

So I can remember distinctly this time, my dad was stirring the septic tank. He'd taken off the big concrete lids and he used a long big crowbar and he was stirring the septic tank. And my brother and I, my younger brother, as kids do, we were running around, we thought it was quite amusing.

Hey, do you want to go for a swim in there? But imagine this. Now this never happened, thank God. But imagine this.

My brother and I got a little bit too close to the edge of the septic tank. We were taunting with the septic tank, closer than we should be, and we slipped in. What would be your reaction if you fell into a septic tank? You'd be disgusted! You'd want to get out immediately, have a hot shower, maybe have three hot showers, put on deodorant and perfume and maybe have a tetanus shot.

What about this? What about someone who would stand on the edge of the septic tank, they line it all up properly and they dive into the septic tank? They go for a bit of a swim, do a bit of backstroke. They're loving it! They're enjoying themselves in the septic tank, in the sewerage. See, that sounds quite ridiculous to us, doesn't it? But how much more ridiculous is it, someone who says, I'm a Christian, but they go out and get drunk every weekend.

What about someone who says, I'm a Christian, but they're just continually holding bitterness and unforgiveness towards people. What about the person who says, I'm a Christian, but they're living in a fornicating relationship with somebody. That's much more ridiculous than someone swimming in a septic tank.

You see, a Christian, when they repent, when you've got the Holy Spirit living inside you, you will hate sin. There is a once and for all repentance. When you come to Christ, you turn away from sin, you turn to God.

You hate sin. You don't want anything to do with it. Now, you can occasionally slip in, but it will disgust you.

You won't enjoy it. You won't live in it. You won't swim in it.

A Christian's not perfect, but they won't live a lifestyle of sin. And 1st John chapter 3 spells this out very clearly for us. It's not something we like to read much in church, but 1st John chapter 3 spells it out very, very clearly.

And verse 6 through to verse 10. Whosoever abides in him doesn't sin. Whoever sins has not seen him, neither known him.

Little children, let no man deceive you. He that does righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that commits sin is of the devil, for the devil sinned from the beginning.

For this purpose the Son of Man was manifested, or revealed, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever is born of God, or whoever is born again, does not commit sin, for his seed remains in him, and he cannot sin because he is born of God. In this the children of God are revealed, and the children of the devil.

Whosoever does not righteousness is not of God, neither is he that loves not his brother. And if you want to flip over to Galatians 5, let me put one final nail in this coffin. See, as Ezekiel prophesied in chapter 11, verse 19 to 21, Ezekiel talked about God taking out the stony heart and putting in a new heart of flesh, didn't he? We even sing songs about that.

But what does he go on to say? We don't usually quote this. He says, that you may keep my statutes and ordinances. See, a Christian, because of God living inside them, the Holy Spirit, will desire to live holy.

They're never going to perfectly attain to it, because they're not God. But that's going to be every day. And when they stumble and fall, it's going to grieve them, it's going to upset them, they're going to repent, or they're going to get some biblical counseling and sort it out.

They're not going to continue in it. But Galatians chapter 5, if you look at the second half of verse 21 with me first, we like to talk about the fruits of the Spirit, but we quite often neglect what comes before them, the works of the flesh. In the second half of verse 21 it says, Of the which I forewarn you, as I have told you in times past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

So those that do these things, and it's not an exhaustive list, but those who do these things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Now, let me give some of you a little bit of relief here. 1 John chapter 3, the context it was talking about in the Greek language, which we don't have time to go into, was living a lifestyle of sin versus living a lifestyle of righteousness.

Because Christians can stumble and fall into sin. And the word do here, or practice in some translations, means specifically to live a habitual lifestyle of, separate from a single act. Let me just highlight a couple of these, and then I'll close.

In verse 19, Now the works of the flesh are manifest, or revealed, or obvious, which are adultery. And Jesus Christ said that, you've heard it said, you shall not commit adultery, but I say if you even look with lust, you commit adultery in your heart. Now this makes it clearly wrong to watch pornography.

Clearly a sin. Makes it clearly wrong for young people to sit down and watch some music videos that have women stripping off their clothes like they're prostitutes, and that's what they are, because they're selling their bodies. But I have a friend in America, he says, we have these adult bookstores that somehow, when we get to the age of 18, we have a privilege that we can watch adult movies, and we can look at adult magazines.

He says, well, they've just misspelt it, because they should have on the end of it, three more letters. E-R-Y. Adultery bookstores.

Because that's what they are. Looking with lust, according to Jesus himself, is committing adultery. And God will not just judge our actions, but our thoughts, and the intent of our heart.

It mentions fornication, not a word we use much today, because just about everyone's doing it. Young people today are looking at marriage as just one of those many options that they can consider. But fornicators will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Someone who's moved in, in a fornicating relationship, they haven't fallen into sin, they've made a conscious decision. They've had to change their address and everything, you know, mailing, and they've had all sorts of stuff. It's a conscious decision.

They haven't just fallen into sin. Those who live a lifestyle of fornication will not inherit the kingdom of God. It proves that they haven't come to Christ.

They might come to church and sing songs, they might profess Jesus as Lord, but their lifestyle denies it. They're living in iniquity, lawlessness. Verse 20 speaks of idolatry.

And this is not just making an idol with your hands. You can have a false concept of God and worship that like I did for 11 years. I worshipped a Jesus, but not the Jesus of the Bible.

I worshipped a fake image of Jesus. It was just all love, no righteousness or holiness. I worshipped like virtually some Father Christmas figure in the sky wants to put his arm around everybody and say, I love you, just keep going on and sinning.

When the God of the Bible says in Psalm 5 and verse 5 that he hates all workers of iniquity. It says in Psalm 7 and verse 11 that God is angry with the wicked every day. Now we can go on with this list and I just want to mention one more.

It talks in there about outbursts of wrath and jealousies and all those sorts of things. It talks in verse 21 about drunkenness. Oh, there's one that might touch some people's nerves.

Now let me clarify something with you. Am I saying that it's a sin to drink alcohol? Well, not necessarily. For the life of me, I cannot understand why a Christian wants to drink alcohol.

But you've got to keep a couple of things in mind when it comes to the biblical definition of drunkenness and alcohol. Number one is that in those days, alcohol was nowhere near as strong as it was today. They had wine and they had strong drink.

Pretty much all the alcohol today is strong drink. But drunkenness is not just someone who's just off their face, it's also if you get tipsy. Someone who comes home from work, has a few beers every night and they're happy, tipsy.

That's drunkenness. Study it out for yourself. They accused Jesus of it, being a wine-bibber or a tipler.

Someone who gets tipsy, that's drunkenness according to the Bible. But keep this other thing in mind. How much alcohol do you need? You might have a glass of wine, red wine with your meal, but how much alcohol do you need to consume to be intoxicated? Some people, only a little bit, before your mind and your capacity to resist sin is totally just dulled.

And God doesn't have a .05 limit. And He's not going to do breath tests to let you know. So there are many sins, but you're saying to yourself maybe, well where's the love? Where's the love in all this? I'll tell you exactly where the love is.

And it may surprise you to know that out of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke mention nothing of the love of God. It's John 3.16 where it says, God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever will believe in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. And it's always in this context, which Romans 5.8 makes it very clear for us.

Romans 5.8 says that God commends His love toward us in that while we're yet sinners, Christ died for us. The love of God is always shown in His cross. See every single person in this room, we all deserve God's eternal punishment.

We all deserve to burn in the lake of fire for eternity. We all deserve it. Even one so-called white lie, and notice God doesn't differentiate between white lies and black lies and blue lies and pink lies.

He says you shall not lie. Even one white lie is enough to damn you to hell for all eternity where your body will be like a log fueling the flames of the fire. This is why Jesus urged people to repent.

And this is what? If you are sitting here tonight and you haven't come to Christ, even though you are a criminal against God and we've all committed crimes against God, I would urge you to come to the foot of the cross of Christ. See Christ took your place upon that cross, willingly gave Himself in your place. There's nothing you can do to earn your way with God because God is so perfect and holy and righteous.

There's no darkness or sin in Him and His sin that comes into His presence will be destroyed. But He loved the world so much He gave His only Son that if you repent, if you turn away from your sin and put your faith, your absolute trust in Christ and what He did for you on the cross, you'll go free on that day of judgment rather than being cast into the lake of fire. God commands all people everywhere to repent because He's appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness, not by what you and I think is right.

And if you're sitting here tonight and you're saying, whoa, something is horribly wrong with my Christian walk and you know that you're false, you know you're an imposter in our midst, which is the title of this sermon, you know that you're an imposter in the midst of the Christians, you're a weed in amongst the wheat, please don't do what I did for ages and be full of self-righteousness thinking, how can I not be a Christian? I've been involved in church activities, I've been coming for years. It's better that you humble yourself now before God than on the day of judgment He exposes you. Do what 2 Corinthians 13 verse 5 says, examine yourself to see whether you'd be in the faith.

But if you're not sure, I'm going to give you an offer tonight. My email address is just info, I-N-F-O, at wayofthemaster.com.au. Don't send it to just .com because it will go to America. If you are not sure of your salvation, if you're doubting your salvation, you're not sure if you're false or true, if you email me, your details, I'll send you a free book.

It's called 7 Certain Signs of True Conversion. That will help you determine whether you really have come to Christ. I want to just close with a word of prayer.

Father, I thank you for your awesome sacrifice. I thank you for the opportunity to preach your word. Lord, I pray that people will be convicted by your Holy Spirit of sin and of righteousness and of judgment, Lord.

That they won't necessarily remember the words that I've said, but they will remember what you've spoken to them by your Holy Spirit. For I pray that those who are not saved will come to you and embrace your love. Because I know you don't want to see them perish on the day of judgment, Lord.

And I don't either. I pray that those who know they're false will repent, they'll fall to their knees, and they'll truly give their life to you in submission. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The message you've just listened to is an extract from a book called Jesus, Real or Real? Due to be released November 1, 2007. Are we worshipping and following the real Jesus of the Bible? Or a fictitious and imaginary Jesus that we've perhaps seen played from a movie reel? For more information on this book or other training materials, please go to holyepidemic.com or call us in Australia on 03 9768 2268.

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