

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

Rev. J. P. Hickey, O. S. B.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE JUDGMENT

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

In this one phrase St. Paul, my dear brethren, depicts the horror and the dread of the Judgment Day. It would be cruel and tyrannical to bid one think of the Judgment if it were useless to do so.

For now we can approach Almighty God, pray, beg pardon, disarm His wrath; but then it will be too late—our poor soul will be utterly powerless and filled with anguish.

Yes, the Judge, Jesus Christ, God and Man—the Almighty Judge, from Whom there is no escape, against Whom no resistance can avail.

The All-Wise Judge! "Therefore am I troubled at His presence, and when I consider Him I am made penitent with fear."

The Just Judge! Alas for us, His justice equals His mercy, and how vividly then, when too late, shall we recall His infinite mercies.

And the sentence of the Judge is irrevocable. The time for mercy has now passed. No favour will be granted; no mistake can be made; no repentance then accepted; no imploring heard.

The sentence, moreover, is that of an angry, outraged God. It will be the consuming scorn of Him, so long despised, forgotten, and disobeyed.

That sentence is eternal damnation, everlasting fire, and dwelling with the devil. "Depart from Me, you cursed, unto everlasting fire, which was prepared for the devil and his angels."

Do we believe in this day of Judgment, that each one of us shall be called up for trial, and an eternal verdict pronounced upon each and every one of us?

To force us to bestir ourselves, let us remember the shame and publicity for us to have all our sins of thought, word, and deed made known to all the world.

Remember the Judgment Day, the anguish and horror of it; the Almighty, All-Wise, and Most Just Judge; the sentence, irrevocable, avenging, and eternal; and our own public shame and condemnation.

The apostate Rennes, who had spent his early years in a French seminary, in the closest intimacy with the clergy, once declared: "I have known none but good priests."

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French ecclesiastics of every rank has impressed upon me the full value of this testimony. . . . There is not a more exemplary body of men in the land.

No question is raised nowadays on this subject by any but a lot of very bigoted and very vulgar people who had their gullibility and their taste for obscene sensationalism pandered to by occasional vagabond "experts" and "ex-nuns."

The most certain thing in life is death. The most uncertain thing is the time of our death and the circumstances connected with it.

But of this we have been made certain: that one day we must die. Why, then, do we live as if we were to be here forever?

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dead. Breathed into us, we live; breathed out of us, we die. But it does not die. It cannot die.

When I had given up hope of ever being well again, a friend recommended "Fruit-a-tives" to me and after using the first box I felt so much better that I continued to take them; and now I am enjoying the best of health, thanks to your wonderful fruit medicine."

The present is the time to settle our account and prepare for our last end. During the past we have sinned often and grievously.

But let us bear in mind that God does not will the death of a sinner, but that he be converted and live. If we turn to Him with a contrite heart He will not despise us.

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HOW TO GET RID OF RHEUMATISM

"Fruit-a-tives" Point the Way to Quick Relief

"I suffered for a number of years with Rheumatism and severe Pains in my Side and Back, caused by strains and heavy lifting.

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"Fruit-a-tives" are sold by all dealers at 50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size 25c.—or sent postpaid by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

SOME DELUSIONS THAT DIE HARD

It is the boast of the modern philosopher that scientific research destroys the delusions of the past. This boasting is too loud.

When listening to the Sunday sermon of a "popular" preacher, it is often possible to tell just what magazines he had read throughout the week.

The most convincing proof that science has not destroyed all the old delusions is the fact that so many old delusions are very much alive.

We are forced to the conclusion that there are certain delusions that science cannot cure. Of this class are the delusions concerning the Catholic Religion.

Another delusion in regard to the Catholic Religion is the idea that Catholicism is a dark and gloomy affair, and must, therefore, have a depressing influence upon those who practice it.

After the ceremony a nun comes over the aisle of the chapel to speak to her relatives in the front pew. Her radiant face tells us who she is.

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appetite for dainties. "What a very heavy plate for a small person to carry," remarks the lady as she helps herself.

The greatest luxury in this life is that found in doing good.

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