

***Advent III Sermon 3 by Bishop Michael Hawkins***

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By the Right Reverend Michael W. Hawkins

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He that judgeth me is the Lord.

The truth is not determined by popular opinion or polls. Jesus speaks almost sarcastically about what people may have thought of John the Baptist, giving them in the end the true judgment, that he is the Messenger and Voice. St. Paul tells the Corinthians that he doesn't care about their opinions of him. He says, "it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you." And why? Because, Paul tells them, "he that judgeth me is the Lord."

Paul goes on to write against what the Revised Standard Version of the Bible calls our "pronouncing judgment," because we are not the judges, this is not the time, we never have the full picture, nor do we know the intentions of people's hearts.

But I want you to focus, for a moment, on that one phrase:

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“he that judgeth me is the Lord.” Not you, not me - he that judgeth me is the Lord. This ought to fill us with fear and hope.

1. God is our judge, our God who is a consuming fire, unto whom all our hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hid. All things are naked and open unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. The coming judgment of God should fill the guilty with dread. For, if the righteous man is scarcely saved, where will the impious and sinner appear? It is the Lord who judges me, and it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

2. But the one who comes to Judge is also our Saviour, and it is his acquittal that counts for ever. If we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come again to be our Judge. The Judge of all is he who would stop at nothing to save and forgive us. “For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that

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the world through him might be saved.” So, he that judgeth me  
is the Lord. Alleluia, come Lord Jesus.