

"AGREE WITH THINE ADVERSARY"**Introduction**

1. The Sermon on the Mount
2. A shift in thought here
3. This is a gospel text

1. THE SINNER'S ADVERSARY

- 1) We might suppose this is Satan. Reasons.
Or else the Antichrist. Explain.
OBSERVE: Many wish to deceive sinners and harm them:
 - (i) Look at Satan's lie: "gods"!
 - (ii) "blind leaders"**APPLICATION**: Check all things by the Bible
- 2) But this "Adversary" is God (ANTIDIKOS):
 - (i) God not cruel or deceiving, but
 - (ii) God has a dispute at law**OBSERVE**: The basis of God's complaint is His law.

2. OUR BEING IN THE WAY WITH HIM

- 1) Travelling along the way = life's way
OBSERVE: God gives time to men to become godly.
This is possible in this life – not beyond it.
- 2) Our earthly life is given us to be a time for getting right with God.
Explain.
ILLUSTRATION: a train journey – stations – destination
- 3) Christ wishes us to get right with God.
OBSERVE: This is the right attitude to life.

3. THE JUDGE

- 1) This is the Lord Jesus Christ – the perfect Judge who is God and Man.
- 2) God delivers sinners to the Judge at their death. This may be "at any time":
 - (i) long life
 - (ii) or short life
 - (iii) with preparation
 - (iv) without it**OBSERVE**: It is all-important how we die.
EXPLAIN:
 - David
 - Absalom, his son
- 3) Death sends you to the Judge at once
APPLICATION: Do you see why Christ's blood is essential?

4. THE OFFICER

- 1) The Judge's work is to pass sentence on us.
- 2) All who are not Christians will be dammned – the angels are Christ's agents to remove us.
- 3) Those who are at peace with God will be carried up to heaven by the angels.
- 4) Those out of Christ will be taken away.

5. THE PRISON

- 1) This is hell, called a prison because:
 - (i) it is made for the punishing of sinners:
 - (ii) here they will all be gathered at last:
 - (iii) in hell they must be tormented
- 2) Perhaps hell will be in sight of heaven
- 3) They are debtors who cannot pay God back for all they owe him: "farthing".

6. THE SINNER'S DUTY

- 1) Is to "agree" with God – to be reconciled.
 - (i) repentance for all sin
 - (ii) faith in the Saviour, the only hope

- 2) Christ tells you to do so "quickly":
 - (i) because time is running out
 - (ii) once time is out, it is out forever

ILLUSTRATION: the sad case of Captain Scott of the Antarctic in 1912.

CONCLUSION

Would you not think it wise to act on Christ's words?

PSALM

25: 6 – 12

71: 14 – 19

76: 5 – 9