



difficult to us...

If we meditate upon all these things let us not give our minds to delights for the end of delights is fire and the worm. Think not of robberies and robbers, there bonds will never be undone... Nor of glory and honor, slavery and pretending comes from it in this world and the perpetual torment of fire in the next...

...Let us give ourselves to the gaining of virtue and through this we shall come to those future joys. This we ask through the grace and loving kindness of our Lord Jesus Christ to Whom with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be glory now and for ever. Amen.



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**SERMON ON  
THE JUDGMENT DAY  
FROM THE FATHER'S OF THE CHURCH  
# 166 - 1**



**JESUS, OUR FIRST PREACHER!**

**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Based on the Divine Office-Douay-Rheims Version**

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Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew 7: 15-21

by: Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor

*For we must all be manifested before the judgment seat of Christ (II Cor. v. 10).*

... Let us imagine to ourselves that the day has now come; let each one consider his own conscience, imagine himself in the Presence of the Judge and that all things are to be revealed and brought against us. We are not alone to stand there, but we must also be revealed before all. Do you not burn with shame? Are you not in dread?

... What shall we do when that day arrives? When the angels and archangels are present along with the thronging hosts, there is a pressing together of all men, caught up in the clouds, the host of all are arrayed and trembling? When the trumpets speak in unceasing voices. Even if there were no hell, to be rejected before all that splendor and to have to depart in shame and infamy, how dreadful a punishment?...

To this there is added darkness; gnashing of teeth; bonds that can never be untied; the worm that dieth not; inextinguishable fire; torments; being pressed in and shut away; tongues that are for ever parched; when we lament there shall be no one to hear us; weep and groan in our pain there will be no one to care; and when we turn our eyes in every direction there will be no one to comfort us. Where shall we be among those thus held fast on the dreadful affliction?

Who are more miserable than such souls or to be more pitied?... Here the bonds are not made of iron as in a prison but of fire... Angels whom you cannot ever look in the face, because of their anger at our past insults against their Master... Here all is without pardon... Let no one hope for blessing if he has not wrought blessing: *Everyone shall receive the proper things of the body, according as he hath done, whether it be good or evil...*

Let us then also pay heed; should you burn with the fire of passion, set against it this fire, it will speedily be extinguished and leave you. If you are about to give utterance to something that is injurious, think of the gnashing of teeth and fear of it will be a bridle to your tongue... If you are designing to plunder another, hearken to the Voice of your heavenly Judge, commanding and saying: *Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the exterior darkness (Mt. xxii. 13)...* If you are given to drunkenness and cannot restrain yourself from it, hearken to what that rich man is saying: *Send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water to cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame (Lk. xvi. 24),* yet he does not get even this... If you delight in luxury, think of the torments there... If you are harsh and cruel, recall to mind those virgins who, when their lamps had gone out, were not admitted to the bridal chamber and then you will speedily put on a little humanity... If you pass your life in sloth and laziness, think of what happened to the *unprofitable servant* who hid his one talent... If you desire your neighbor's goods, think of the worm that does not die... God has laid on us nothing that is hard or impossible. It is our own sluggishness that seems so