

# Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

*You Must be Born Again!*

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## Gnashing Teeth

*May 14, 2023*

**Sermon Text:** Luke 13:22-30

**Scripture Reading:** Acts 7:30-60

Luk 13:22-30 He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. (23) And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, (24) “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

(25) When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer

you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ (26) Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ (27) But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’

(28) In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. (29) And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. (30) And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

The spirit of the antichrist is very much at work in the world today and I want to propose to you this

morning that there is plain evidence for all who will see it to show this. In fact, what we are seeing all around us in this world right now is an increase in this activity of Satan which will, as God's Word tells us, culminate one day in a one world (though short-lived) antichrist kingdom which will rule over all nations.

Rev 13:4-9 And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" (5) And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. (6) It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. (7) Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, (8) and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation

of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. (9) If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

One of the signs that the activity of antichrist is increasing in our day is something that, though it may sound strange, the Bible calls *the gnashing of teeth*. This has been and still remains a telltale trait of Satan's demons and followers. Gnashing of teeth. Let me first show you from scripture that this is true, and then we need to think about how we are seeing it more and more in our day. Let's follow J.C. Ryle and put it into three points:

- 1. The gnashing of teeth is a consistent mark of Satan's servants when confronted with Christ, with His truth, or with His people.**
- 2. The gnashing of teeth is increasingly evident in our day and is a fruit of an intense hatred of Christ**
- 3. As we see the wicked fruit of the spirit of antichrist**

**increasing, we must be certain that we are in Christ, or else we will surely be deceived by the beast and end up bowing to him.**

1. In the first place, the gnashing of teeth is a consistent mark of Satan's servants as they evidence their hatred of Christ's people

I think you might well be surprised how prominent this theme is in the Bible:

Psa 35:15-16 But at my stumbling they rejoiced and gathered; they gathered together against me; wretches whom I did not know tore at me without ceasing; (16) **like profane mockers at a feast, they gnash at me with their teeth.**

Psa 37:10-12 In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there. (11) But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace. (12) **The wicked plots against the righteous and**

**gnashes his teeth at him,**

Psa 57:4 My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beasts— **the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.**

Psa 112:6-10 For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever. (7) He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD. (8) His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries. (9) He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor. (10) **The wicked man sees it and is angry; he gnashes his teeth and melts away; the desire of the wicked will perish!**

**NOTE:** It is very plain to us that this gnashing of teeth is energized by the wicked man's intense hatred of Christ and His people. The wicked are like savage beasts – inhuman and beastly. It is no mistake that the antichrist kingdom

will reveal itself as a *beast*. Snarling with murderous hatred at the righteous.

Psa 124:6-8 Blessed be the LORD, who **has not given us as prey to their teeth!** (7) We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped! (8) Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Lam 2:16 All your enemies rail against you; **they hiss, they gnash their teeth**, they cry: “We have swallowed her! Ah, this is the day we longed for; now we have it; we see it!”

Remember the murder of the two witnesses in Revelation 11 as an example of this demonic glee:

Rev 11:7-10 And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, (8) and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and

Egypt, where their Lord was crucified. (9) For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, (10) and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth.

Dan 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. **It had great iron teeth**; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

Joe 1:6 For a nation has come up against my land, powerful and beyond number; **its teeth are lions' teeth, and it has the fangs of a lioness.**

Mat 8:11-12 I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham,

Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, (12) while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. **In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**”

Mat 13:40-43 Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. (41) The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, (42) and throw them into the fiery furnace. **In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.** (43) Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Mat 22:12-13 And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. (13) Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. **In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**’

Mat 24:48-51 But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master

is delayed,’ (49) and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, (50) the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know (51) and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. **In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

Luk 13:27-28 But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ (28) **In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth,** when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out.

Now, let’s be certain to get hold of this fact:

***This gnashing of teeth is NOT an expression of agony and misery by poor lost sinners suffering in hell. It is an expression of murderous rage toward God. Even the weeping is an expression of that rage.***

The wicked become savage beasts in their rage against the Lord-

Jud 1:10 But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.

Now, is this *gnashing* literal? Here is the definition-

*grind (one's teeth) together, typically as a sign of anger:*

And so the answer is – yes. Definitely. It is literal. The intense clenching of the teeth in rage. Remember what we read about Stephen’s enemies? –

Act 7:54 Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him.

Now, in the second place:

**2. The gnashing of teeth is increasingly evident in our day and is a fruit of an intense hatred of Christ**

What do we see all around us today? In the news, yes, but also in our own community. Think, for example:

1. Parents confronting school administrators with pushing evil agendas, even secretly, upon their children.
2. What is the experience of anyone speaking out against perversions of sexuality and gender? What is the response of the evil crowd?
3. What did we see in the mobs marching (illegally yet unmolested) right up to the homes of the Supreme court justices when a ruling about abortion they did not like was leaked?
4. What happens to people who refuse to submit to the so-called “woke” agendas being pushed upon us? The mobs rage. The teeth gnash.
5. What is happening more and more to genuine Christians who stand for Christ?

And we could go on with many other examples. Murderous, teeth-gnashing rage is the response. More and more these kind of beastly people just go out and start slaughtering people.

Don't be deceived. This is Satan. This is the spirit of the antichrist. It is not mere "mental illness."

And we know that it is going to increase. How? Because the Bible is very plain – the satanic trinity – the dragon, the first beast, and the second beast, are going to arise and ultimately establish a worldwide kingdom.

And this brings us to our third point:

**3. As we see the wicked fruit of the spirit of antichrist increasing, we must be certain that we are in Christ, or else we will surely be deceived by the beast and end up bowing to him.**

One of the essential qualities of Satan is *deception*. The Bible is plain in warning us of this:

Joh 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Rom 16:18 For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.

2Th 2:9-12 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, (10) and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. (11) Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, (12) in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

2Jn 1:7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.

Rev 13:4-8 And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?” (5) And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. (6) It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. (7) Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, (8) and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was

thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Rev 20:7-8 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison (8) and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea.

We are living in a world increasingly filled with lies. Satanic propaganda. There are more avenues to spread it today than ever before. *And unless we are in Christ, unless we know His Word, then we will be deceived just like the vast majority of mankind.*

Did you hear that? YOU will be deceived. YOU will submit and worship the beast. YOU will receive his mark.

NOW is the time to know – to know with certainty that we are in



Christ and not deceived about the state of our souls. How? How do we know that we are born again? The answer is this: *by His Spirit within us.*

1Jn 4:12-13 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. (13) By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

Have you ever read these verses and then wondered – *but how do I know He has given me His Spirit?* Let me show you:

Eze 36:25-27 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. (26) And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (27) And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Listen to a pastor of long ago, George Smeaton, explain:

“The Holy Spirit is given to inhabit His people....not by a mere inactive presence, but by an effectual inhabitation which must be regarded as animating and pervading all the faculties and powers of the human mind.”  
[Reformed Systematic Theology, Beeke & Smalley]

Understand? The Holy Spirit does not dwell in us and just “sit there.” He sweeps through ALL of our mind, and through ALL our emotions of heart. Just as “those having not the Spirit walk after their own ungodly lusts” (see Jude 18-19), so the Christian indwelt by the Spirit walks after the Spirit.

Rom 8:9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

ALL genuine Christians, ALL who are born again, are indwelt by the

Spirit and the Spirit works powerfully in them.

Rom 5:5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Listen to William Perkins explain:

“The Holy Ghost has full disposition of the heart, as when a man comes to dwell in a house of which he is lord and therefore he has liberty to govern it after his own will....where the Holy Ghost dwells, there HE WILL be Lord, governing both heart, mind, will, and affections.” [ibid, p. 748, vol 3]

Where the Holy Ghost dwells, and He dwells in every real Christian, *He will always work to sanctify. His effecting of the new birth brings about a new creation and this work is a continuing work as long as we are in this world.* This is the leading of the Spirit. Where that leading is not present, the Spirit is absent and the heart remains dead in sin.

“The Spirit’s presence does not eliminate the presence of remaining sin in believers, *but it does make it impossible for sin to reign over us.* John Owen said, ‘He enters into no soul as his habitation, but at the same instant he dethrones sin, spoils it of its dominion, and takes the rule of the soul into the hand of his own grace.’ [ibid, p 749, vol 3]

Gnashing of the teeth, this raging hatred of Christ is on the march and increasing around us. Satan is on the prowl, always working to destroy souls and always working to bring in his evil kingdom. He is lying and deceiving. *Are you in Christ? Are you inhabited by His Spirit? Or are you deceived already and in fact are still dead in sin and a slave to the devil?*

Has the Holy Spirit evidenced Himself in you? Are you changed? Do you love God whereas you once hated Him? Are you broken and humbled by Him, or do you still walk in pride, looking to your own so-called “goodness” to justify yourself to Him? *When God’s truth*

*comes to you, does you jaw clench against it? Do you despise His Word, or love it?*

All who truly know Him use their mouths to praise Him and will do so for all eternity.

All who are deceived, all who are hostile against Christ, will spend all eternity weeping, wailing, and gnashing their teeth against the God they hate.

Which group do you belong to?