

## THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

The believer in Christ has a glorious future awaiting him. In fact, the Bible says, *"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."* (I Corinthians 2:9-10) The Holy Spirit has revealed these things to us in the pages of the Bible. The Bible is the only Book that accurately unfolds the past, present and future. It is truly a blessing to be able to read the Bible and be assured of events that are still yet in the future.

One of the future events that the believer has to look forward to is ***"The Judgment Seat of Christ."*** There is coming a day when every believer will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ, and they will hear Him say, *"This was your life."* At that very moment our life of service, from the day we first trusted in Christ, is going to pass before our eyes. You see God is keeping a record of our lives as Christians. Everything about us is being written down in God's record book. The Bible says, *"For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings."* (Proverbs 5:21) One day this record will be revealed at ***"The Judgment Seat of Christ."***

Every Christian should realize that God's ways and man's ways are not the same. God does not see things as man sees things. Man looks on the outward appearance and generally operates in the physical realm, but God looks at the heart attitude and operates in the spiritual realm. Since this is true, in order to serve God effectively, we must take our focus off of the physical and concentrate on the spiritual. Our life upon this earth will only make sense when we live it in the spiritual realm. For life to have purpose and meaning it must be focused upon the eternal. The Bible says, *"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we Look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."* (II Corinthians 4:17-18)

The purpose of this lesson is to help you keep your life focused upon those things, which are eternal. This will be accomplished when you come to understand the Biblical truth of your final accountability as a servant to the Lord Jesus, at ***"The Judgment Seat of Christ."***

# I. THE REALITY OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT

## A. What Is The Judgment Seat Of Christ?

### 1. The judgment seat is a place clearly taught in Scripture.

a. *"Why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall \_\_\_\_\_ stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ knee shall bow to me, and \_\_\_\_\_ tongue shall confess to God. So then \_\_\_\_\_ one of us shall give account of himself to God."*  
(Romans 14:10-12)

b. *"For we must \_\_\_\_\_ appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that \_\_\_\_\_ one may receive the things done in his body, according to tha \_\_\_\_\_ hath done, whether it be good or bad." (II Corinthians 5:10)*

c. *"For I know nothing by myself: yet am I not hereby justified: but he that \_\_\_\_\_ me is the Lord. Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to \_\_\_\_\_ the hidden things of darkness, and will make \_\_\_\_\_ the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God."*  
(I Corinthians 4:4-5)

### 2. The judgment seat is a place where our service to the Lord, from the time of salvation onward, will be judged.

a. We will not be judged for our sins, for no sin that has been put under the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ will ever again be brought up against us.

b. *"And their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will I remember no more."*  
(Hebrews 10:17)

c. What we will be judged for is our work as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### 3. The judgment seat is a place where the quality of our work is judged as opposed to the quantity.

a. *"Every man's \_\_\_\_\_ shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire: and the fire shall try every man's \_\_\_\_\_ of what sort (**what kind**) it is. If any man's \_\_\_\_\_ abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's \_\_\_\_\_ shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved: yet so as by fire." (I Corinthians 3:13-15)*

b. Our service to God is going to be judged according to the motive behind it.

c. The Lord is more concerned with the attitude of our heart in service than the accomplishment of our efforts.

## B. What Will The Judgment Seat Be Like?

### 1. It will be a place of reward.

- a. In the Bible, the word for judgment seat is translated from the Greek word "*bema seat*."
- b. The bema seat was not a judicial bench upon which a judge sat in order to pass sentence upon a criminal.
- c. The bema seat was a throne upon which the judge sat to distribute medals, crowns and trophies to the winners of the various athletic games.

### 2. It will be a place of review.

- a. The Lord will not only review what we did, but also what we attempted to do, as well as, why we did it.
- b. *"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! For if I do this thing \_\_\_\_\_, I have a \_\_\_\_\_ :"* (I Corinthians 9:16-17)
- c. The Lord doesn't require His servants to be successful, but He does require them to be \_\_\_\_\_. (I Corinthians 4:2)

### 3. It will be a place of recognition.

- a. The Lord will publicly recognize His faithful servants.
- b. There are many dear saints of God who are serving the Lord faithfully in some small obscure place, who may go unrecognized and unnoticed by man, but not by God.
- c. It makes no difference where you serve Him, just so long as you serve Him faithfully where you are.

### 4. It will be a place of regret.

- a. Those who have lived for themselves will sadly regret the fact that they did not serve their Lord faithfully.
- b. There will be many who will rejoice, but there will be many others who will be ashamed.
- c. *"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have \_\_\_\_\_, and not be \_\_\_\_\_ before him at his coming."* (I John 2:28)

## II. THE REWARDS OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT

### A. What Rewards Will Be Given To Believers At The Judgment Seat Of Christ?

#### 1. The incorruptible crown

a. *"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may \_\_\_\_\_ . And every man that striveth for the mastery is \_\_\_\_\_ in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an \_\_\_\_\_ (I Corinthians 9:24-25)*

b. This is a crown given for temperance or moderation.

c. The context of these verses deal with temperance in all matters (*mental, physical and spiritual*), which would affect the believer's ability to run the best race possible and maintain a proper testimony before others.

#### 2. The crown of righteousness

a. *"Henceforth there is laid up for me a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ , which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that \_\_\_\_\_ his appearing." (II Timothy 4:8)*

b. Who does the Bible say will receive this crown? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Our desire should ever be for the Lord to come again.

#### 3. The crown of rejoicing

a. *"For what is our hope, or joy, or \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ ? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?" (I Thessalonians 2:19)*

b. This crown has been called the soul-winner's crown, and it is given to those who win people to Jesus Christ.

c. It is called the crown of rejoicing because it produces rejoicing, not only in the soul-winner's heart, hut also in heaven when someone gets saved. (*Luke 15:10*)

#### 4. The crown of life

a. "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be \_\_\_\_\_ ; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou \_\_\_\_\_ unto \_\_\_\_\_ , and I will give thee a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ ." (Revelation 2:10)

b. "Blessed is the man that \_\_\_\_\_ : for when he is \_\_\_\_\_ , he shall receive the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ , which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." (James 1:12)

c. The crown of life has been called the martyr's crown. It is given to those who are faithful unto death, as well as those who endure trials and overcome temptations.

#### 5. The crown of glory

a. "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the \_\_\_\_\_ thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being \_\_\_\_\_ to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a \_\_\_\_\_ of that fadeth not away." (1 Peter 5:2-4)

b. The crown of glory is a special crown given to pastors who shepherd God's people in the Word of God.

### B. Why Should The Believer Be Concerned About The Judgment Seat Of Christ?

#### 1. The judgment seat is an incentive for holy living.

a. "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord draweth nigh." (James 5:8)

b. "And every man that hath this \_\_\_\_\_ in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." (1 John 3:3)

c. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed \_\_\_\_\_ , and glorious \_\_\_\_\_ of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;" (Titus 2:11-13)

d. "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ:" (1 Peter 1:6-7)

**2. By keeping focused on the judgment seat you will naturally develop a desire to please God rather than man.**

a. The rewards we receive on earth are temporal and will one day perish. But, the rewards we will receive at the judgment seat will be eternal and will never perish.

b. We must be careful of losing rewards we might have gained if we had only lived for the Lord and not for self.

**Conclusion:** You should ever remember that in the long run it always pays to serve the Lord.  
*(Memorize: II Corinthians 5:10)*