

## LESSON 16 - THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

### Is There a Judgment Day for Christians ? And For What Will I Be Held Accountable ?

The Christian life is a series of choices and decisions we all must answer for some day. The Bible warns us that God's ways are not our ways (Isa 55:8-9), because man looks on outward physical matters while God looks at the heart attitude and operates in the Spiritual realm.

If you are going to serve God **effectively**, you must take your focus off physical matters and concentrate on the Spiritual. Your life will only make sense and have **purpose** and **meaning** as you live in the Spiritual realm, **focused** upon Eternal matters and issues.

This Lesson is designed to keep your focus on these Eternal matters by detailing your final accountability to the Lord Jesus Christ **as** His servant.

#### I. Understand The Nature Of The “Judgment Seat Of Christ.”

- A. First, **Judgment** faces **every** human being who has ever lived.

Proverbs 29:26; Hebrews 9:27

- B. There are three **kinds** of “Judgments” that a Child of God faces.

**1<sup>st</sup>** Judgment as a “Sinner”

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Judgment as a “Son”

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Judgment as a “Servant”

**1<sup>st</sup>** Judges us **as** “Sinners” at the Cross

1. Jesus **took** our Judgment there.
2. Judgment for **Sin** took place at Calvary.
3. By placing your faith **in** Jesus Christ, you **do not have** to fear Judgment for your Sins, because He took your Judgment upon Himself.

1 Peter 2:24; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Judges us **as** “Sons” with Chastisement here upon this earth

1. Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth **he chasteneth**, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Heb 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God **dealeth with you as with sons**; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Heb 12:8 But **if** ye **be without** chastisement, whereof **all are** partakers, then are ye bastards, and **not sons**.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Judges us **as** “Servants”, for our Stewardship of our opportunities.

1. This Judgment takes place at the “Judgment Seat of Christ” being judged for our **Service** to Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10

## **II. Understand For What You Will Be Judged At The Judgment Seat Of Christ**

- A. You will be judged for your work **as** a servant of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

B. Your work will be judged for the **quality** as opposed to the quantity.

1. “Of what **SORT** it is.” (what kind) 1 Corinthians 3:13
  
2. **Duty** and **obedience** are more important than feelings and emotion. If the **proper** works are maintained, the **proper** attitudes will come naturally and the **proper** relationships will be developed.

1 Thessalonians 2:4; Ephesians 6:6

3. God tries our heart by giving us a task to perform.

1 Chronicles 29:17, 19; Jeremiah 17:10; Revelation 2:23

### III. Understand The Negative Consequences Of This Judgment

A. Loss and Shame are possible.

1. Paul said in speaking of the Judgment Seat of Christ in *2 Corinthians 5:11* that the “*terror of the Lord*” should motivate us to serve Him and persuade others. A Christian should never fear going to hell, but there are some things to beware of in relation to the final judgment.

2. Some Christians will be found:

- a. Ashamed for not living for the Lord Jesus Christ at His appearing.

1 John 2:28

- b. Suffering Loss because their works **were** temporal and **not** Eternal.

1 Corinthians 3:15

- c. Losing rewards because they lived **in** Sin, rather than **for** Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:10; Galatians 6:7-8

B. Appearances and Assumptions are deceitful.

- 1. Do not be fooled by outward Appearances, in your own life as well as the lives of others. Many people only **APPEAR** to be servants of the Lord.

Luke 16:15; 1 Corinthians 1:27-31

- 2. Be sure to invest in heavenly rewards instead of earthly rewards. The real servants of the Lord will be revealed at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Matthew 6:19-20; Colossians 3:1-4

#### IV. Understand The Rewards That Are Obtainable At This Judgment

The Rewards obtainable at the Judgment Seat of Christ can be seen by studying the **Five Crowns** in the New Testament:

- A. **Crown of Righteousness** – 2 Timothy 4:8 – given to those who love the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- 1. The Bible **closes** with “*Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*”

Revelation 22:20

- 2. Your overriding desire should be, at all times, to be with the Lord.

Philippians 1:23-24

3. You **will not** love His appearing unless you, like Paul, have **fought** a good fight, **finished** your course, and **kept** the faith!

2 Timothy 4:7

**B. Crown of Life** – Revelation 2:10 – the Martyr’s Crown.

1. This is also seen in James 1:12 as given to those who endure temptation.
2. This is the same as the Martyr’s Crown because you overcome temptation **by** dying to self.

Romans 6:6-11

**C. Incorruptible Crown** – 1 Corinthians 9:25 – given for Temperance or Moderation.

1. The context of 1 Corinthians 9:18-27 deals with temperance or moderation in all matters (Physical, Spiritual, and Mental) to be a testimony to others.
2. This is balanced **by** remembering some have infirmities for the purpose of glorifying God. Paul is a great example.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

**D. Crown of Rejoicing** – 1 Thessalonians 2:19 – the Soul-Winner’s Crown.

1. This is given to those who win people to Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:1

2. This is called the Crown of Rejoicing because it produces rejoicing in heaven when someone gets saved.

Luke 15:7

E. **Crown of Glory** – 1 Peter 5:4 – the Shepherd’s Crown. Given to those who Pastor or Shepherd or Oversee people **in** the Word of God.

1. The New Testament is very clear that **ALL** saved people are to be actively teaching someone the Word of God, **not just** Preachers.

Ephesians 4:11-16

2. This Reward requires great wisdom which can only be obtained through the Word of God.

Proverbs 4:7-9

V. **Here Is A Quick Summation Of What We Will Be Judged About For Our Service To The Lord**

- |                 |   |   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Quality of our Life                                       | Worth- <u>While</u> <b>or</b> Worth- <u>less</u>          |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Work of Life  | Treasures Laid Up <b>in</b> <u>Heaven</u> or <u>Earth</u> |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Stewardship <u>with</u> <b>what</b> was <b>given</b> you. | Invested <b>or</b> Wasted                                 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | What <u>was</u> our “Motivation”                          | <u>sort</u> - 1 Cor 3:13                                  |

Psa 96:13     “.. he shall **judge** the world **with** righteousness, and the **people** with **his truth**.

## VI. Here A Quick Summation Of The “Rewards Ceremony”

1<sup>st</sup> A Verbal Commendation “Well done **good** and faithful servant”  
Matt 25:21-23

Mat 25:23 His lord said unto him, **Well done, good and faithful servant**; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

2<sup>nd</sup> Five various Crowns 1 Cor 9:24-25

3<sup>rd</sup> Robe & Clothing 2 Cor 5:3, Rev 3:18

4<sup>th</sup> Inheritance 2 Tim 2:12

5<sup>th</sup> Your place of Position Luke 12:42, Mark 10:37, Rev 3:21

A Key word to **Remember** Is, **Eternal**

## VII. Basic Question: Why should I be concerned about the “Judgment Seat of Christ?”

A. The focus on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ is one of the **most** practical Doctrines for everyday living in the Bible.

Notice in the following verses how many practical Character qualities are produced by focusing on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Patience

James 5:7-8; 2 Thessalonians 3:5

2. Peace

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

3. Joy

1 Thessalonians 2:19

4. Holiness

1 Thessalonians 3:13; 1 John 3:1-3

5. Confidence

Philippians 1:6; 1 John 2:28

6. Diligence in Service

2 Timothy 4:1-8

7. Righteous Living

Titus 2:11-14

8. Faith even in difficult Times

1 Peter 1:5-7

- B. The rewards you receive on earth are all temporal and will perish. The rewards you receive at the Judgment Seat of Christ are eternal and will never perish.

2 Corinthians 4:17-5:4

- C. By consistently focusing on the Judgment Seat of Christ, you will naturally develop a desire to please God rather than men. Developing this attitude is the surest way to handle criticism and opposition.

2 Corinthians 5:6-9; 1 Corinthians 7:23



# The Judgment Seat Of Christ

## Lesson #16

1. What **group** of people **will be judged** at the Judgment Seat of Christ?
  
2. What will you be judged for at the Judgment Seat of Christ?
  - A.
  
  - B.
  
  - C.
  
  - D.
  
3. There are some things of which you should beware **regarding** the Judgment Seat of Christ. List them below.
  - A.
  
  - B.
  
  - C.

4. The real servants of Jesus Christ will be revealed and the less sincere will be exposed. What are two principles to remember concerning this? Give a scripture reference for each.
  - A.
  - B.
  
5. There will be rewards available for those who are found to be faithful in their service to the Lord Jesus Christ. List the five crowns and describe briefly what they are given for.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
  - E.
  
6. When a Christian focuses his attention on the **Return** of the Lord Jesus Christ, he tends to **develop** some proper Character Qualities. List them.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

H.

7. What is the **difference between** the Rewards you receive on Earth and the ones received at the Judgment Seat of Christ?
  
8. What is the **greatest benefit** in your life of constantly focusing on the Return of the Lord Jesus Christ?
  
9. Briefly explain the **primary** Purpose of this Lesson.

# Key Memory Verses

**2 Corinthians 5:8-9; 1 John 2:28; Luke 16:15**

**NOTE:** In many Churches today, some popular teachings are:

1. God is going to **judge** Christians for their Sin.
2. Christians will be judged for their “heart attitude” apart from righteous works.
3. Our Rewards and Losses are all received in this life.

From the Bible Principles taught in this Lesson, you should understand these teachings are false and why.

⇒ Write any **questions** you may have concerning the Subjects in this Lesson.