

Biblical Discipleship

16



JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST



LESSON 16: THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

"Is There a Judgment Day for Christians, and What Will I Be Accountable For?"

The Christian life is a series of paradoxical truths. The Bible says God's ways are not our ways 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 of 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 on eternal matters.

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. What is the "Judgment Seat of Christ?"
 - A. God will judge every human being who has ever lived.
Proverbs 29:26; Hebrews 9:27
 - B. God judged the sin of the world at Calvary. By placing your faith in Jesus Christ, you do not have to fear judgment of your sins because He took your judgment upon Himself.

I Peter 2:24; II Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13

- C. Your judgment will be for your service to the Lord Jesus Christ after your salvation. This event is called the "Judgment Seat of Christ."

II Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10

II. What will I be judged for at the Judgment Seat of Christ?

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

I Corinthians 3:11-15

- * B. Your work will be judged for the MOTIVE behind it and the quality as opposed to the quantity.

1. "Of what SORT (what kind) it is."

I Corinthians 3:13

2. Heart attitudes will be more important than actual works. If the proper attitudes are developed, the proper works will come naturally.

I Thessalonians 2:4; Ephesians 6:6

Key memory verses:

II Corinthians 5:8-9; I 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 what they have done without regard for their motives.
3. Our rewards and losses are all received in this life.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand that these teaching are false, and why.

Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

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.

III. What are the negative consequences of this judgment?

- A. Paul said in speaking of the Judgment Seat of Christ in *II 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.

Some Christians will be found:

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

I John 2:28

2. Suffering loss because their works were temporal and not eternal.

I Corinthians 3:15

3. Losing rewards because they lived in sin rather than for Jesus Christ.

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

- B. Remember that appearances are many times very deceiving.

1. Don't 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; I 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. What rewards are obtainable?

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 — *II 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

- B. Crown of Life — *Revelation 2:10* — the martyr's crown.

1. Also seen in *James 1:12* as given to those who endure temptation.

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.

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.

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 — *I Corinthians 9:25* — given for temperance or moderation.

1. The context of *I 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 that some have infirmities for the purpose of glorifying God. Paul is a great example.

II Corinthians 12:7-10

- D. Crown of Rejoicing — *I Thessalonians 2:19* — the soul-winner's crown.

1. Given to those who win people to Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:1

2. Called the crown of rejoicing because it produces rejoicing in heaven when someone gets saved.

Luke 15:7

- E. Crown of Glory — *I Peter 5:4* — the shepherd's crown. Given to those who pastor or shepherd people in the word of God.

2. 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

3. It requires great wisdom which can only be obtained through the word of God.

Proverbs 4:7-9

V. Basic questions.

- A. Why should I be concerned about the Judgment Seat of Christ?

1. 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.

- a. Patience.

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

- b. Peace.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

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.
3. There are some things which you should beware of regarding the Judgment Seat of Christ. List them below.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

NOTES

c. Joy.

I Thessalonians 2:19

d. Holiness.

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

e. Confidence.

Philippians 1:6; I John 2:28

f. Diligence in service.

II Timothy 4:1-8

g. Righteous living.

Titus 2:11-14

h. Faith even in difficult times.

I Peter 1:5-7

2. 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.

II Corinthians 4:17-5:4

3. By constantly 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.

II Corinthians 5:6-9; I Corinthians 7:23

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