

Are You Ready For What Happens After *The Rapture*?

We have studied a great deal in prophesy.

We have studied
Daniel,
2 Samuel 7;
Matthew 24-25; and
1 and 2 Thessalonians.

In these we have studied the two future appearances of JESUS CHRIST; first at the Gathering of the Church and then at His Second Advent to earth. We have noted over and over the coming *Rapture*. And how we are all looking forward to *the Rapture*.

Question

Are you sure you want *the Rapture*?

The most important thing that an unbeliever misses out on is spending eternity with God the Father and Jesus the Christ, His Savior.

But...

What about the believer?

What is the most important thing the believer can *miss out* on?

Rewards in Eternity

Unfortunately multitude of believers will miss out on Eternal Rewards in *his/hers* eternal dwelling.

There is nothing a believer can do to lose his/hers salvation but you can lose out on blessings in eternity. And you lose out in time, while living here on earth.

Our time on earth is brief, but our existence in heaven is eternal!

You want to be in *the Rapture*

but are you ready for what happens after *the Rapture*?

We will start with the primary verse then go to a biblical example.

1 John 2:25

25 **This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.**

Where did He make such a specific promise?

1 John 3:15

15 **so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.**

So every individual throughout all history who has not believed in JESUS CHRIST will not receive the blessing of eternal life.

But instead will abide in eternal death. John 3:36; 5:24;
Romans 5:21; 6:23;

Now back to 1 John 2:28

28 **Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.**

Note...*in shame*

Ok, first this is addressed to believers in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.

**Now,
little children**

(because you have Eternal Life)
(and why do they have Eternal Life?...
Because they have believed in JESUS CHRIST
and are now in the family of God, in the
body of JESUS CHRIST; and since they have
secured Eternal Life what is the most
important issue for the believer?)

abide in Him

ABIDE IN HIM

- (1) you have a momentum in life—direction and you have to be aware of what is the momentum of your life—*and what you say and how you live* may be two different things.
- (2) Abide is used to convey the ideal of *staying close*, continuing in those things that correspond to your purpose, goal.
- (3) You have to *actually live in that purpose*, momentum you have to dwell in it...therefore the use of the word *abide*.

1• Verse 4 **abide in me** (note that in verse 7 and 8 three magnificent results of) **abiding in Him**

- a Your prayers will be answered
- b God the Father is glorified
- c You demonstrate that you are follower of JESUS CHRIST

- 2• John 15:9 **abide in my love**
- 3• John:8:31 **abide in my word**
- 4• Acts 2:26 **abide in hope**

Back to 1 John 2:28 **Now little children** (believers) **abide in Him** (upon this phrase lies the dynamics of this verse.)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| a | having confidence |
| b | not shrink away |
| c | <i>Not being ashamed</i> |

Upon what do these three dynamics depend?

ABIDE IN HIM And here is the momentum of our next study:

How do we **abide in Him**?

So that ...when He appears you are ready for this one, this refers to *the Rapture* of the Church, Aor i st Passive Subjunctive of the verb to appear. Aor i st tells us this is going to happen ...it is certain but the subjunctive mood tells us that it is uncertain, unknown when He will appear.

There are so many things that will happen when *the Rapture* occurs, but what is emphasized here is the *Judgment Seat of Christ*, where each and everyone of us must one stand, alone; You cannot take your parents nor your husband or wife, nor your pastor...You will stand alone at the **Judgment Seat of Christ** to have your life evaluated by JESUS CHRIST Himself.

Not a desired thought for many believers.

1 John 2:28

28 **Now little children abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence abide in Him,**

When you stand before JESUS CHRIST at the **Judgment Seat of Christ** you want to have *confidence*...Present Active Subjunctive. Present tense + (plus) the Active voice—you will be standing there.

Subjunctive mood, maybe you will have confidence while standing before JESUS CHRIST... maybe you will not !

It is my responsibility to do everything I can to be sure that everyone of you have confidence when you stand before JESUS CHRIST after *the Rapture*.

May have confidence (Ok, here we learn something about standing at the **Judgment Seat of Christ: WE WILL HAVE TO SPEAK!**)

This Greek word refers to the act of speaking; freedom or frankness in speaking; confidence or boldness, especially in speaking. This word carries with it being in public eye, rather than being concealed or in private.

Outspokenness, frankness, unreservedness in speech, plainness; freely, openly publicly, courage in speech, boldness in speech.

- Under Roman Law, even if you were a citizen, you had to have permission to speak to Caesar.
- However under Greek Law, if you were a Greek citizen you could speak at the assemblies.
- One of the beautiful stories in the bible is that of Esther, who, because she was queen, and even though a Jew, spoke freely and boldly before the King in behalf of the Jews.
- One of the cherished freedoms we have lost in America is the Freedom of Speech. No matter what the constitution says, you have to be so careful as to what you say and in front of whom you say it, even in your own home. We have lost the Freedom of Speech.

When you stand at the **Judgment Seat of Christ** will you **speak out ...or ... Remain Silent in shame?**

1 John 2:28

28 **Now little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence, and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming**

(Literally)

and not be ashamed from Him in His presence

(NIV)

and unashamed before him at his coming

(Or other)

and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

(KJ)

and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

1 John 2:28

28 **Abide in Him...so that...We may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him in His presence**

After every believer dies, there may be shame.

SHAME this is the Aorist Passive Subjunctive of the Greek verb meaning shame or put to shame. The Aorist points specifically to the reality of when we all stand before JESUS CHRIST ...at the **Judgment Seat of Christ**.

The Passive voice, means we receive this shame and the all important Subjunctive mood:

maybe you will be ashamed... maybe you will not be ashamed.

- (1) Shame is not the same as *dishonor*. At the **Judgment Seat of Christ** you are not and cannot be dishonored. You are in Christ and You cannot be deprived of your honor of being in Christ for all eternity.

- (2) What produces shame? Why will a believer be ashamed at the **Judgment Seat of Christ?**

Not because of sins!

Be sure you understand this about shame at the **Judgment Seat of Christ**. There will be no shame for any sin you committed in your life-time

Why not?

So many Christians like to hold this over other Christians, **that you will be ashamed in the future judgment.**

Wrong

And Why no shame for sins?

Because JESUS CHRIST bore all the shame and judgment of every sin except the sin of unbelief.

Isaiah 53:3-6

3 **He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.**

4 **Surely our griefs (of sins) He Himself bore, And our sorrows (from sin and the shame of sins) He carried; (on the cross) Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.**

5 **But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; (sins and shame of sins) The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.**

6 **All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD (God the Father) has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.** (not fall on us)

Don't let anyone convince you that you will in the future be ashamed of any sin or sins you have committed.

Get down on your knees and thank God that His Son took away those sins and the shame that goes with them.

(3) Ok, if we are not ashamed of our sins, what will we be ashamed of at the Judgment Seat of Christ? *All the lost privileges you did not take advantage of.*

(4) This takes us to the defining phrase in 1 John 2:28 **to abide in Him** How do we abide *in Him*?

(5) First we abide in Him by abiding in His Spirit.

1 John 4:13

6 **By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.** (It is by the Holy Spirit that we abide in Him.)

Therefore, we are told to

Eph. 5:18 **be filled with the Holy Spirit**

Gal. 5:16 **walk by the Spirit**

Gal. 5:18 **led by the Spirit**

Gal. 5:25 **live by the Spirit**

Gal. 5:25 **live in step with the Spirit**

This goes along with 1 John 2:6

6 **the one (believer) who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.**

(and how did JESUS CHRIST walk?)

He walked by Faith in the Holy Spirit,

Matthew 4:1 ***JESUS CHRIST was led by the Holy Spirit.***

Luke 4:1 **Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit.**

(5) First we abide in Him by abiding in His Spirit.

(6) Oh, the shame that multitude of believers will experience at the Judgment Seat of Christ *because they did not walk by faith in the Holy Spirit.*

But some will protest:
*“but look at all I did for you,
I witnessed for you,
I sang for you,
I gave money to you---”!*

To which Christ will reply...
yes, you did all these things...in the flesh.

Oh, the shame, if I had only trusted His Spirit!!!

(7) **Abide in my word or in my teaching.**

How do we *abide in His teaching?*

2 John 1:9

Anyone who goes too far (in the energy of the flesh) and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

We abide in His word by abiding the study of the Holy Bible under the direction and enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.

You see people, JESUS CHRIST has set up the Local Church; He has made sure that there are men with gift of Pastor-Teacher; He has given to us the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

What shame on a believer who does not take advantage of these grace blessings JESUS CHRIST has given to us.

- (8) We will not be ashamed of sins we have committed, but we will be ashamed of not using and exploiting the privileges JESUS CHRIST has given to us.

Are you going to be so confident before JESUS CHRIST to say, I was working, making money, I was too busy for bible class doing other things? No, I think not, we will bow our heads in silent shame!

- (9) There will be multitude of believers in shame because they did not **abide in His Love.**

We can see it now, standing there before Him as judge; with head bowed low in shame, "I just did not abide in His Love,"
...Oh, He was important to me, but
...well, making money was more important;
Sports in life was more important than He was;
Family was more important;
Fun and relaxation was more important:
even Television was more important than going to Bible Study and
Abiding in His Love.

Question

How do we abide in His Love?

JESUS CHRIST answers this question for us:

John 15:10

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love...

What commandments?

Look down at John 15:12 **This is my commandment...**

Verse 10 PLURAL *commandments*,

Verse 12 SINGULAR *commandment*.

What is going on?

There is little to no distinction between the singular and the plural.

The commandments are **Faith** and **Love**;
or you can see these as a singular.

Look at 1 John 3:22-24 and 22

22 **and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments (plural) and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.**

23 **This is His commandment, (singular)**
(1) **that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ,** and
(2) **love one another, just as He commanded us.**

24 **The one who keeps His commandments (Faith and Love) abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.**

Question

How do we abide in His Love?

Simple: **LOVE**

Spiritual Love, is a fruit of the Holy Spirit;
so if you make it your goal
to walk by the Holy Spirit every waking hour,
you are abiding in His Love!!!

What happens if we abide in His Love?

John 15:11

11 **These things (abiding in His Love) I have spoken to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full.**

So if we abide in His Love, and keep His commandments of
Faith and Love
we can have joy each day and our joy may be full.

That is not bad to live in this old world,
with all the evil and immorality going on ...and to live in **Full Joy.**

But this not only has benefits in time
but also in the future at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

1 John 2:28

28 **Now, little children,** (believers) **abide in Him,** (and you abide in Him if you walk by faith in the Holy Spirit) **so that** (this introduces another benefit of abiding in Him and in His word, Joy in time but now something in the future) **so that when He appears (*Rapture*) We may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him in His presence** (at the **Judgment Seat of Christ.**)

Friends, everyone of us who have believed in JESUS CHRIST will stand before JESUS CHRIST after *the Rapture* and have our lives judged. Not our sins, they were taken care of on the cross.

No JESUS CHRIST will judge us as to our taking advantage of all that He has given us, like :

the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit,
the completed canon of Scripture;
the Local Church and the Pastor-Teachers.

Did you take advantage of these great grace blessings given to you?

*It is my responsibility to equip you for the Judgment Seat of Christ.
And that is what I am going to do as we adventure into the great book
of Colossians.*

(1) The Incarnation, that is God becoming man—First Advent of Jesus as the Christ, the promised Messiah

- (2) His death on the cross, bearing the judgment for all the sins of the world—unbelievers and believers
- (3) His resurrection—guaranteeing our own resurrection
- (4) His Ascension and Session of JESUS CHRIST at the right hand of God the Father where He (a member of human race) now sits.
- (5) Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) beginning of the Church Age. We now live in the Church Age where everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior is forming the Body of JESUS CHRIST.
- (6) *The Rapture*—removal of everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST at the regathering before JESUS CHRIST. This is where everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior is resurrected and receives a Resurrected Body, minus Inherited Sin Nature. Philippians 3:20-21
- (7) Then, we each stand before JESUS CHRIST for Judgment. We can give thanks that we will not stand before Him at the Great White Throne Judgment but we will stand before JESUS CHRIST after *the Rapture*. You do not want to be shamed at this judgment!

Get ready for this judgment, Now!!

Judgment Seat of Christ

Get ready for this judgment, Now!!

-1- The Judgment Seat of Christ takes place in heaven, during the 7 years of Tribulation going on, on earth. This is part of the preparation of the Bride of Christ for the marriage in heaven and for the marriage supper which will take place on earth.

-2- Romans 14:10

But you, (in contrast to JESUS CHRIST in verse 9) **why do you judge your brother?** (Christian brother, and because we are joint brothers in Christ we are not to judge One Another) **Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt?** (Contempt and censure are sins, not to be practiced by Christians toward One Another.)

And why not?

For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

Why then do we call this the Judgment Seat of Christ?

Because of Romans 2:16 **on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.** and John 5:22 **“For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,**

Back to Romans 14:10 **But you, (believer) why do you judge your brother?** (Christian brother) **Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.** where JESUS CHRIST will be the judge.

Verse 11 has been so misunderstood because most people take it out of context.

Romans 14:11-12

11 **For it is written, “AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD.”** This is every knee and tongue that stands before JESUS CHRIST at the Judgment Seat of Christ ...interpret the Word of God in context; The context here is of believers.

12 **So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God** (Ah, do you see it?)

(Do you remember) 1 John 2:28 which reads

28 **Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not Abide in Him...so that...We may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him in His presence**

Remember what the Greek word for confidence means?

We will have to *spea*k! This Greek word refers to the act of speaking; freedom or frankness in speaking; courage in speech, boldness in speech.

Understand this in context of Romans 14:12

12 **So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God**
Don't worry, you will not have to give an account of all your sins... Oh, No... it is more meaningful than your sins... we will have to give an account as to why we did or did not **abide in Him**. *Will you be ashamed?* Will you feel like Peter, when he denied even knowing this Jesus?

Or will you speak forth boldly of your abiding in Him, abiding in His Word, walking in His Spirit?

-3- Close to the preparation for standing before JESUS CHRIST in Romans 14 is 1 Corinthians 4:5
Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes (*Rapture*) who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

PRINCIPLE:

If the realization of standing before JESUS CHRIST to judge us, sets in our souls, it makes a real difference in how we watch what we say about One Another.

1 Corinthians 4:5

5 **Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, (that is before the time when JESUS CHRIST judges) *but wait until the Lord comes (Rapture) who* (at the Judgment Seat of Christ) **will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts;****

Most people interpret this to mean *sins*... hidden in the darkness of our souls... but this is not the case.

First we must understand and believe that on the cross, JESUS CHRIST bore the judgment for all the sins of the world; MAS (mental attitude sins), S/T (sins of the tongue) and Overt sins.

Ok, so what is hidden in our hearts?

The real motivation of all our actions, especially the ones that we claimed were for the Lord.

What is hidden to the world is the power by which we did all that we did. The motives for all we did

1 Corinthians 4:5

5 **and then each man's praise will come to him from God.**

This is powerful!

You want praise from man or from God?

From others or from JESUS CHRIST?

Then start living your life abiding in JESUS CHRIST.

- 4- Several things happen at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Not only will some believers receive praise from God but also rewards for all eternity

2 Corinthians 5:10

10 **For we must** (Inevitable in the Plan of God, you cannot, you will not escape the Judgment Seat of Christ) **all** (every believer of the Church Age) **appear** (we must all stand before JESUS CHRIST and have our true character publically revealed at the Judgment Seat of Christ. You want to be ready for this and you can be ready to appear *unashamed*)

10 2 Corinthians 5:10
before the judgment seat of Christ, so that (here is the purpose of the Judgment Seat of Christ) **each one** (each and every believer) **may be recompensed** (this is in the subjunctive mood, which here is rather sobering.)

It means you may or you may not be recompensed—the subjunctive mood reveals that while every born again believer will be at the Judgment Seat of Christ, not every believer will be recompensed. This Greek word means to acquire, to obtain, to receive.

for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

There are those Pastor-Teachers who interpret *bad* as sinful. But again, no one will be ashamed at the Judgment Seat of Christ for sins he committed in his life, JESUS CHRIST bore the shame and judgment for all our sins, and that my friends is Grace, Love and Mercy!

Remember the basis or grounds of judgment will be the secrets of the heart, not the overt activity but the motivation and power in which those things are accomplished.

And this will be fair; for JESUS CHRIST is Omniscient and He knows the thoughts, intents and motivations of the heart.

There will be a multitude of legalistic believers who will be in shame at the Judgment Seat of Christ. There will be a multitude of Self-Righteous believers who will be in shame at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

There will be a multitude of believers who choose not to see the all importance of the ministry of the Spirit of Christ and submit to Him by Faith in their service of the Lord.

Therefore the loss of rewards, the shame experienced at the Judgment Seat of Christ will be what we have each earned. **Bad** means things you did —for Christ— **in the flesh**. **Good** refers to those things we did in and under the power and direction of the Holy Spirit

Abiding in Him
Abiding in His Word
Abiding in His love.

So friends, fellow believers, brothers and sisters in Christ, you will stand before JESUS CHRIST after *the Rapture* at the Judgment Seat of Christ and you do not need to be ashamed.

1 John 2:28

28 Now, little children, (believers) abide in Him, so that when He appears (After *the Rapture* at the Judgment Seat of Christ) We may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him in His presence

**Next week we begin our study on
How you need not be ashamed
in the book of Colossians**