

You do not earn Salvation!  
You earn Rewards!

Colossians 2:18a

Ok, so you are looking for the Rapture—even anticipating it!

But... are you ready for the next event right after the Rapture?

No, I am not talking about happens on earth after the Rapture but are you ready for what happens in heaven?

This is the next event for you! There is no guarantee that every one of you will die! If the Rapture occurs in your lifetime you will be cheated out of death and go straight up to meet the Lord in the air. But there is something guaranteed for every one of you if you are a believer in JESUS CHRIST as Savior... and, that is... the Judgment Seat of Christ.

## The Judgment Seat of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:10

10 **For we must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**

We just saw in our study on 1 Corinthians 11 that JESUS CHRIST is our Judge in regards to our partaking of the Communion in an unworthy manner. What is an unworthy manner? Partaking of Communion out of the Filling of the Holy Spirit.

JESUS CHRIST is your Judge

He is our Savior, He is our Friend

–but–

He is also **OUR JUDGE!**

And oh, please remember He knows the thoughts and intents of the heart—He knows what you are thinking as well as what we are saying and doing—He is a Righteous judge.

He is not like Satan;  
He is not like other believers;  
He Judges Rightly.

Let us now read 2 Corinthians 5:9

**9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.**

(Note the word 'pleasing'. This Greek word can also correctly be translated 'accepted' as in the King James and this is an interesting choice of words by Paul.)

Everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior is Acceptable to God based on the person and work of JESUS CHRIST... but... our being acceptable before JESUS CHRIST is quite another issue. We are all accepted 'in Him' but our life being acceptable 'before Him' or 'to Him' is another issue.

Our being acceptable in Christ is a result of JESUS CHRIST's work for us on the cross and His resurrection... but our works being acceptable to Him is based on our works done the Filling Power of the Holy Spirit. That we are eternally acceptable to God depends on God's Faithfulness, however, the acceptance of our works depends on our faithfulness.

Acts 10:34-35

34 **Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality,**

35 **but in every nation the man who fears Him *reverences Him* and does what is right (margin of NASV) works righteousness is welcome to Him.** (And the word translated ***WELCOME*** should be translated) **is accepted to Him.**

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Question:

Can the flesh produce works-of-righteousness?

Certainly not!

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This is the beginning of our understanding from the Word of God the difference between 'good' and 'bad' in 2 Corinthians 10:5. We know from Galatians that the flesh cannot produce righteousness before Christ.

Galatians 5:16-17

16 **But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.**

17 **For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.**

When we think of the basis of rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ we must think in terms of the works of the flesh vs. the works of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:35

35 **but in every nation** (In the Church Age there is no “called nation”, God is now working through the body of Christ which is made up of Jews and Gentiles.) **the man** (believer) **who fears Him reverences Him and does what is right** (margin of NASV) **works righteousness is accepted to Him.**

It is not a matter of ‘doing good acts’ vs. ‘doing bad acts’ or ‘sinning’ and ‘acts not considered sin’. It is not a matter of ‘going to church’ vs. ‘not going to church’; or ‘being faithful spouse in marriage’ vs. ‘being unfaithful’.

It is a matter of the POWER by which you do these so called ‘good acts’.

Here is where we can learn a lesson from the Reformation. The majority of Roman Catholics in the hierarchy of the Roman Church did not believe in ‘***Sola Scriptura***’ nor did they believe in ***Solus Christus***—Through Christ Alone, nor did they believe in ***Sola Gratia***—by grace alone. Oh, but did they ever pray, cross themselves, give sermons, give money, etc., but all these things and many more were—(are) —nothing but bad works before God.

Righteous Works are not defined by the act themselves but the POWER that produces these acts. Two people can give to the church—one doing good works or righteous works while the other doing bad works or works of the flesh.

Two people can pray, can be kind, sing praises to God, etc., one doing righteous works... the other works of the flesh or bad works.

Paul is saying here in 2 Corinthians 4-5 that it is not so much a matter of living in the 'NOW'. He believed in the FUTURE and he determined to have the FUTURE influence how he lived his life on earth in this body.

Many Christians, if not all, believe in the FUTURE, believe in the 'afterlife', but this belief has little bearing, little influence on they live their lives now.

PRINICPLE: Take your Theology Seriously.

Many Christians are far more committed to their marriage, to their work, than they are to their BELIEF that they will one day stand before JESUS CHRIST.

### **Why?**

Why should we live being ambitious of our lives being acceptable to JESUS CHRIST?

Verse 10 answers this question.

## 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

9 **Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be acceptable to Him.**

(When will this be revealed—whether what we do are works of righteousness –good works or works of the flesh—bad works?)

10 **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,**

First thing to notice is that all important word **must** is the Greek impersonal verb meaning that this is **inevitable!** It is not even certain that every one of you will die—Rapture—but—this is certain, inevitable!

By God's design this is certain for every born-again believer.  
**For we must all** (every born-again believer)

This does not involve anyone who has died or will die who has never believed in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.

This verse concerns only those who have believed in JESUS CHRIST as Savior and it concerns every one of those who have believed in JESUS CHRIST

### **Appear**

**AORIST PASSIVE INFINITIVE.**

**AORIST:** Point in time right after the Rapture;

**PASSIVE:** Each one of us will receive this appearing—no escaping it, no getting out of it.

So often, believers talk about being with Jesus, seeing Jesus... well, be careful for it is a guaranteed fact that you will, you will stand before Him—Face to Face, just as one stands before the judge in a courtroom... well, every one of us will stand before JESUS CHRIST.

## **For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ**

This is the '*bema*'. This Greek word translated **judgement seat** *BEMA*, refers to an elevated place, to which the ascent is by steps. It is used among other things for the place of judgment.

This word is used to distinguish this event before JESUS CHRIST by believers of the Church Age and the final judgment at the Great White Throne Judgment, where every unbeliever will stand before JESUS CHRIST and be judged. The unbeliever will not be judged in regards to sins but they will be there because they have refused to believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.

(Revelation 20:11-15)

And what is interesting about the issues to be judged at Great White Throne Judgment is their 'good' works will be placed against the cross work of JESUS CHRIST. The point is that in rejecting JESUS CHRIST as Savior they chose to stand on their own good works.

As to the **bema** seat:

*“In the Roman world of the New Testament times, there was a raised platform in the city square where a dignitary would sit to hear civil matter or hand out rewards for accomplishments.”*

Right after the Rapture all believers of the Church Age will appear before the ‘**bema**’ or Judgment Seat of JESUS CHRIST. This will occur in heaven while the Tribulation is occurring on earth.

**For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ**

When you were in school, if you knew that a big test (final examine) was coming—this was an incentive to study! Ok, you know that this judgment by JESUS CHRIST is set and you must be there. This, then, is our **INCENTIVE** to live Spirit Filling Life for it is our **AMBITION** to receive rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

And why must we appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ? **So that** (For this purpose) **each one** (Every believer of the Church Age) **may be recompensed** (Receive or take to one’s self) **for his deeds** (There is no Greek word for ‘deeds’ here. In fact, this is nothing more than a definite article, translated ‘deed’ ‘things’ ‘what is done’... which is closer to what Paul is saying here.)

**So that each one may be recompensed for what he has done in his body,**



**FIRST: -----**

Paul includes the word ‘**body**’ to counter that teaching that says that what we do in this **body** is not that important.

To Christ it is exactly this, that what we do in this body is important. It will be the basis of receiving rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ. What we do with our bodies and to our bodies and through our bodies matters to JESUS CHRIST. What we do to our bodies, and with our bodies is going to be the issue at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

**SECOND: -----**

There is some sound theology required in regards to our bodies.

For example,

1 Corinthians 6:13

13 **Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.**

Do you see it?

*Your body is for the Lord and the Lord is for your body.*

Let me put it another way that may communicate this to some of you:

*Your body is for your husband or wife, not for anyone else.*

*Your body is not for immorality—not for adultery, or homosexuality or drunkenness or promiscuity.*

### THIRD: .....

We just studied in Colossians 2:16 how no one is to be our judged in regard to food or drink. So, there are things we need to know about our bodies in our relationship with the Lord.

### FOURTH: .....

Why is our body important to God and to JESUS CHRIST?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

19 **Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?**

20 **For you have been bought with a price: (JESUS CHRIST cross-work) therefore glorify God in your body.**

### FIFTH: .....

We are to consider our bodies as servants of the Lord:

Romans 12:1

1 **Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. What you do with your body is part of your worship to your God!**

### SIXTH: .....

And what does the bible have to say about the modern movement of tattoos? When we consider how anti-God and anti-Jesus Christ is in the world today we should be very careful about various movements like tattoos.

Leviticus 19:28

28 **You shall not make any cuts in your body for the dead nor make any tattoo marks on yourselves: I am the LORD.**

**SEVENTH: -----**

Everything we do with or to this body we should think first –is this to the glory of the Lord?

1 Corinthians 10:31

31 **Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever u do, do all to the glory of God.**

**EIGHTH: -----**

Take care of your body, it is the temple of the Lord. Take care of what you do to your body but remember your real beauty is in your soul.

1 Peter 3:3-4

3 **Your adornment must not be *merely* external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;**

4 **but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.**

Teach your young daughters that her real beauty is ‘hidden’ and not pay attention to boys who praise the seen beauty but pay attention to those who seek to know her soul.

And there are many other passages that teach concerning the body but I think this gives you enough to start on devoting your bodies to the Lord.

Why?

Your body is the Temple of the Lord and  
what you do in this body  
will be the basis of judgment at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

But in 2 Corinthians 5:10 the body is used in refer to our time here on earth. And in our bodies, we have been given the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit making us the Temple of God.

2 Corinthians 5:10

10 **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for what he has done in the body, whether good or bad.**

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**It is this last phrase  
that allows us to understand what is going on.  
In understanding *GOOD* or *BAD*.**

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**1<sup>ST</sup>:** (UNDERSTANDING GOOD OR BAD)

We know that we will not be judged for sins, generally referred to as 'bad'. But JESUS CHRIST bore that on the cross.

So, what is meant by 'good' or 'bad'?

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** (UNDERSTANDING GOOD OR BAD)

In context we know that it must be something that is pleasing to JESUS CHRIST verse 9.

WE WILL COVER THIS IN DETAIL BUT FOR RIGHT NOW

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**3<sup>RD</sup>:** (UNDERSTANDING GOOD OR BAD)

This is not referring to good or bad deeds as man understand them, but it refers to those things we do in the power of the Holy Spirit—therefore good.

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**4<sup>TH</sup>:** (UNDERSTANDING GOOD OR BAD)

Those things done in the flesh are therefore bad.

As we will see it is not so much what we do, as in whose power we do it. In the power of our flesh -or- in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit.

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**5<sup>TH</sup>:** (UNDERSTANDING GOOD OR BAD)

Verse 10 must be understood in the context of this chapter.

*We have full confidence of our Salvation  
by the giving of the Holy Spirit from God  
—verse 5.*

*Our sole objective now  
is to Please JESUS CHRIST  
in everything we do or say.*

And this verse gives our incentive to live the Spirit-Filled Life.

This point is introduced in 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

17 **For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,**

18 **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.**

And what are the things 'not seen'?

Certainly NOT JUST THE ACTS THEMSELVES BUT RATHER THE POWER SOURCE BEHIND THEM.

That is...

what is not seen are those things done in the POWER and LEADING of the Holy Spirit.

**“I strive throughout my life to be acceptable to the Lord.... For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for what he has done in the body, whether good or bad. “**

There can be no evasion, no deception, no disguise and no excuses before an omniscient judge as JESUS CHRIST.

Are you ready to stand before JESUS CHRIST  
as He judges your life?

Question:

**Is eternal salvation a Reward?**

Are the 34 things we receive at salvation 34 REWARDS?

**Certainly Not!**

Ephesians 2:8

8 **For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God;***

**GIFTS** are not rewards! **GIFTS** are not prizes!

**GIFTS** are freely given—you do not earn nor deserve **GIFTS**.

REWARDS on the other hand are EARNED!