

Live Your Life in Light of the Judgment Seat of Christ
Make Your Life Count for All Eternity, not just Now!

This study on the Judgment Seat of Christ has taken longer than I first thought, but we have learned a great deal about just how important our lives after salvation will be for all eternity. We have covered many passages that should encourage each of us to anticipate with joy the Rapture and what follows right after the Rapture, the Judgment Seat of Christ.

We entered this study from:

Col. 2:18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize (at the Judgment Seat of Christ) by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, (or dreams he has dreamed) inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,

You don't want to stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ and not receive a reward from Jesus Christ. You don't want to be ashamed at the Judgment Seat of Christ (don't forget **1 John 2:28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, (the Rapture) we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming** (at the Judgment Seat of Christ)). It is my goal that not one of you will be in shame at Judgment Seat of Christ but that we all will receive rewards.

As we close this study of receiving rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ, we are going to look at a variety of points on commendation after the Rapture.

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FIRST: Biblical Eternal Rewards

Do not allow anyone to tell you that receiving rewards in heaven is not all that important, that we should serve the Lord out of love not for rewards. God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ have themselves set up the systems of rewards for all eternity. Jesus Christ Himself will distribute these rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Remember that God both made and designed the soul of man, where mankind would have the proper understanding of rewards.

1. Inheritance: This is mentioned first to distinguish it from two other doctrines: (1) that we are heirs of Christ and (2) *entrance into the Kingdom*, in contrast with being heirs of the kingdom. Every believer in Jesus Christ as Savior shares the heirship of Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:16-17). All believers share this heirship which means every believer shares the eternal life of Jesus Christ. Heirship is part of our eternal security. In fact, there is the reward of an inheritance in the Kingdom. Every believer in Jesus Christ will enter the Eternal Kingdom, but there is rewarded a special inheritance to certain believers.

Heb. 6:11 And we (pastor-teachers) desire that each one of you (believers) show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, (the Rapture)

12 so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

The adjective “sluggish” is used to describe a believer as slow-moving or inactive, one lacking energy or alertness. Why? Because they do not walk in the Spirit; they do not grow in the Word of God. These believers do not inherit.

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Now as to inheriting the Kingdom and entering the kingdom.

1 Cor 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

We know from the gospel that anyone who believes in Jesus Christ has eternal life. But if in any of these lived their lives after salvation, they do not inherit rewards in the Kingdom. Here again, you tell anyone this and you will be noted as a bigot, a racist or even mentally ill. But this is from the Word of God.

This is the same understanding of

Gal. 5:19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Again, they will certainly enjoy eternal life in the eternal Kingdom of God but they will not inherit the Kingdom, which means they will not inherit the rewards of the Kingdom, promised by Jesus Christ.

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Unlike ‘crowns,’ the rewards of inheriting the Kingdom are not specifically mentioned as in

1 Peter 3:8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;

9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

The blessing is not described but knowing the faithfulness of our heavenly Father you can count on it being most special.

2. Treasures: Another term used of heavenly rewards without specifying.

Matt. 6:19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

The Greek word means to store up treasure for future use. I love this, we store up things on earth only to lose them or become too old to really enjoy them, but here we can actually store up treasures to be used throughout eternity.

3. Rule with Christ: One of the noblest of rewards will be the privilege of ruling with Jesus Christ. This reward is described in a parable by Jesus Christ.

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Luke 19:11 While they were listening to these things, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately.
12 So He said, “A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and *then* return.

13 “And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas (a mina is about 100 days wages) and said to them, ‘Do business *with this* until I come *back*.’

14 “But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’

15 “When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done.

16 “The first appeared, saying, ‘Master, your mina has made ten minas more.’

17 “And he said to him, ‘Well done, (wouldn’t it be great to hear Jesus Christ say this to you at the Judgment Seat of Christ) **good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.**’

18 “The second came, saying, ‘Your mina, master, has made five minas.’

19 “And he said to him also, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’

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20 “Another came, saying, ‘Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief;
21 for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.

22 “He *said to him, ‘By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow?

23 ‘Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?’

24 “Then he said to the bystanders, ‘Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’ (Under God’s economics the rich get richer and the poor get poorer)

25 “And they said to him, ‘Master, he has ten minas *already.*’

26 “I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.

27 “But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence.”

Regardless of what the Pope just said, there is an eternal lake of fire for those who refused to believe in Jesus Christ as Savior.

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Receiving the reward of rulership is also taught by Jesus Christ in the Parable of Talents in Matt. 25:14-30. In this teaching Jesus Christ utters the words: **Well done good and faithful servant.** Wouldn't you love to hear these words from Jesus Christ to you at the Judgment Seat of Christ? You Can! Be faithful with your spiritual gift, be faithful with your spiritual opportunities. And how are we faithful? Faithfulness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22). So, if you are consistent by walking in Holy Spirit by faith, being Filled by Holy Spirit by faith, being led of the Holy Spirit then you will be faithful in all the things God gives you. What is so important here is to pay attention to the word **well done good and faithful servant, you were faithful with a few things.** Don't try to pull that line, well the pastor-teacher has a lot more opportunities than I or the missionary etc. No, that is not the basis upon which Jesus Christ is going to judge. His Judgment will be based on what He has given to you and what you did with that!

As we close this study on rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ, let's summarize some basis for receiving rewards.

1. Again from

2 Cor. 5:10 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.

What is good is what Christ through His Holy Spirit produces in our lives. Bad refers to anything done in the power of the flesh.

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John 15:5 “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

As Joe Wall points out, “If this verse is to be read literally and absolutely we must conclude that unless Jesus Christ is producing something of value in us, our efforts are absolutely worthless.” If our works are ‘worthless’ means they are bad. That Jesus Christ works in us by the Holy Spirit is seen from John 14:16-21 and all of Rom. 8. Specifically, **Rom 8:4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.** It is the Holy Spirit who produces the works in us. **Rom. 8:8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.** It is so difficult for many to grasp that it is not the act that is to be considered ‘good’ or ‘bad’ but the power in which it is produced. By the power of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ who is in you.

2. The obedience that Christ will reward believers is the obedience that is faith.
 - a. First: **without faith it is impossible to please God** (Heb. 11:6)
 - b. Second: In the first and last sentences of the book of Romans, Paul specifically says: **the obedience that is faith.** It is not the obedience to do good deeds. Any unbeliever can do good deeds, but the unbeliever cannot produce good deeds in the power of the Holy Spirit without living by faith in Holy Spirit.
 - c. Third: Substance of Faith: Faith has no power. There is no power in Faith. Faith has no merit. There is no merit or power in faith. The power, the Merit, of faith is in the object of Faith.

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It is so important that we understand there is no power, no merit in faith. This is why it does not matter if you have a lot of faith or a small amount of faith. Faith does not work. When your faith is in God, God does the Work! God the Son saves, God the Holy Spirit causes us to be spiritual.

d. Fourth: Faith is passive, not active. Faith is the means by which we receive and are benefited by what only God can do and this starts at cross. God has so many blessings for the believer. And Faith is the only way we can receive these blessings. Then *from faith to faith* that is faith in Jesus Christ to faith in the Holy Spirit for the Christian life. And by faith in Holy Spirit we receive the works of the Holy Spirit. He does the work and we receive the reward. This is Grace.

3. (from Joe Wall) “Jesus will reward us according to our secondary involvement in the ministry of others.”

Matt.10:40 “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

41 “He who receives a prophet in *the* name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward.

42 “And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”

But my friend John Hintz discovered even more emphatic passages in Philemon.

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Begin with **Phil. 1:5** in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

In context this is a reference to the Judgment Seat of Christ. Here we have believers participating with others in spreading of the Gospel -- and that God the Holy Spirit will bring it to 'perfect' or 'successful conclusion' that will result in rewards at Judgment Seat of Christ.

Now look at **Phil. 4:17** **Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.** Be careful here, Paul is not saying that he does not seek 'rewards at Judgment Seat of Christ'. He is speaking of their financial support; so he is saying that he does not seek so much their financial support but what he really seeks is that these believers will receive rewards 'profit' on the day of the Lord --that is at the Judgment Seat of Christ

4. The fourth category of rewards is confined to the pastor-teacher. But every pastor-teacher should be aware that the pastor-teacher will receive the strictest of judgment. Every pastor-teacher should be aware of this. Only the pastor-teacher will receive the Crown of Glory, but he will be judged by the strictest of standards.

First lets examine his reward.

1 Peter 5:1 **Therefore, I exhort the elders (pastor-teachers) among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, (This is why his crown is called the Crown of Glory)**

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2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; Many pastor-teachers around the world today have massed 'sordid gain', to their own discredit in the world and before God.

3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. Many pastor-teachers 'lord' it over their flock instead of joint fellowship in the glorification of Jesus Christ

4 And when the Chief Shepherd Jesus Christ, whom pastor-teachers are to imitate appears, Judgment Seat of Christ you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Ok, this is nice, but the pastor-teacher will receive the most severe of judgment by Jesus Christ at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

James 3:1 Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.

Every pastor-teacher should have this verse on his heart at all times. While 1 Peter 5:4 is an encouragement, James 3:1 is a strict warning. Make no doubt about this, while many pastor-teachers are getting away with 'sordid gain' and 'lording' it over others now, they will be deprived of reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ. And while their 'sordid gain' lasts only a short while, they will be without the Crown of Glory for all Eternity. Remember, the Crown of Glory does not fade away.

James 3:1 Let not many become teachers. King James interprets this...**be not many masters** The Greek word appears 48 times in the gospels, 41 referring to Jesus Christ Himself. In the Epistles it often refers to the pastor-teacher of a local church, as it does here in James 3:1.

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Let not many become teachers, my brethren, knowing I wonder how many congregations and how many pastor-teachers really *know* this fact about the Judgment Seat of Christ; **that as such** that is as those responsible for the Spiritual growth in the Word of God **we will incur** or receive from Jesus Christ at the Judgment Seat of Christ **a stricter judgment. KJ...shall receive the greater condemnation. Kenneth Wuest: ...shall receive a more severe sentence of condemnation.** To be honest the Greek word *krima* is not confined to condemnation but simply to the results of being judged. However, the context places greater responsibility on the pastor-teacher.

OK, the pastor-teacher has the opportunity of receiving the Crown of Glory at the Judgment Seat of Christ but he is also severely judged. On what basis? We studied this in 1 Cor. 3.8 **Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.** The context is the pastor-teacher watering with the word of God. He will be judged according to whether or not he teaches the Word of God in truth, not to please man but to please Jesus Christ the Chief Shepherd. Whether his 'labor' was in the power of the Holy Spirit or energy of the flesh.

9 For we (pastor-teachers) are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. (Specifically, what material he uses. Does he teach the Word of God or human viewpoint?)

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11 For no man (no pastor-teacher) **can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

12 Now if any man (pastor-teacher) **builds on the foundation** (that foundation is Jesus Christ and his building is what he teaches) **with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,** These are six categories of Bible doctrine. Gold, Silver and precious stones refers to sound doctrine that will cause the believer to grow spiritually, while wood, hay and straw are not false doctrines, false teaching but will not carry the believer through the storms of life, through testing and adversity.

13 each man's work will become evident; for the day Judgment Seat of Christ **will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire,** and every pastor-teacher is going to have to stand there and watch what he taught tested by fire at Judgment Seat of Christ **and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.** Was the quality he taught from the study of the Word of God? Did he teach verse by verse? Was his teaching allowing those who consistently heard it grow spiritually? Did what he taught cause those who listened to receive rewards at Judgment Seat of Christ. People, we have seen many times that it is important who you listen to in the teaching of the Word of God. Well, it will be very important to you, when you stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Did your pastor-teacher teach you the Word of God where you will receive rewards at Judgment Seat of Christ?

14 If any man's (pastor-teacher) **work** (teaching of the Word of God) **which he has built on it remains,** (from the fire used to test it.) **he will receive a reward.** (We know from 1 Peter this reward will be the Crown of Glory).

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Now we come to the ‘severe judgment’ of the pastor-teacher.

15 If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; loss of reward from Jesus Christ. Many look at the worth of a pastor-teacher by his reward from man, but to the wise it will be the reward from Jesus Christ that is most important. but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Now we come to you...**v16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?** Don’t allow the world to define who you are. Listen to the Word of God:

verse 9 you are God’s field of production.

verse 9 you are God’s building –standing in the world.

verse 16 you are a temple of God—the Spirit of God dwells in you.

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People you should pay close attention as to who you are in God's sight. You should care very much the growth in your life as a field of production for God. This depends on just whom you listen to teach the Word of God. You care who teaches your children, you care who operates on your body, you should care all the more who teaches you the Word of God. What is he using for building material? Make you feel good sermons or Gold, Silver or Precious Stones from the Word of God.

You are a Temple of God. Are you taught that the Holy Spirit dwells in you for a designed purpose of God? Are you taught to be Filled with the Holy Spirit and how? To walk in Holy Spirit, to be led of the Holy Spirit to keep in step with Holy Spirit and...**how?**

Make your life count for all eternity, not just for now.

We are born, not by our request.

We live out our lives by the choices we make.

Then we are removed from the scene on earth.

We hope somehow we might be remembered.

But time moves on so quickly, most of us are soon forgotten in a generation, maybe two.

But oh, to be remembered at the future Judgment Seat of Christ.

How we live these few short days can be forgotten in time and eternity, or they can result in eternal glorification of our Savior-friend, Jesus Christ.

While you cannot lose your eternal salvation, you can miss out on eternal glorification.

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Be wise with the choices you make each day.

Value time, value your life, value eternity, value Christ.

Value the teaching of the Word of God!