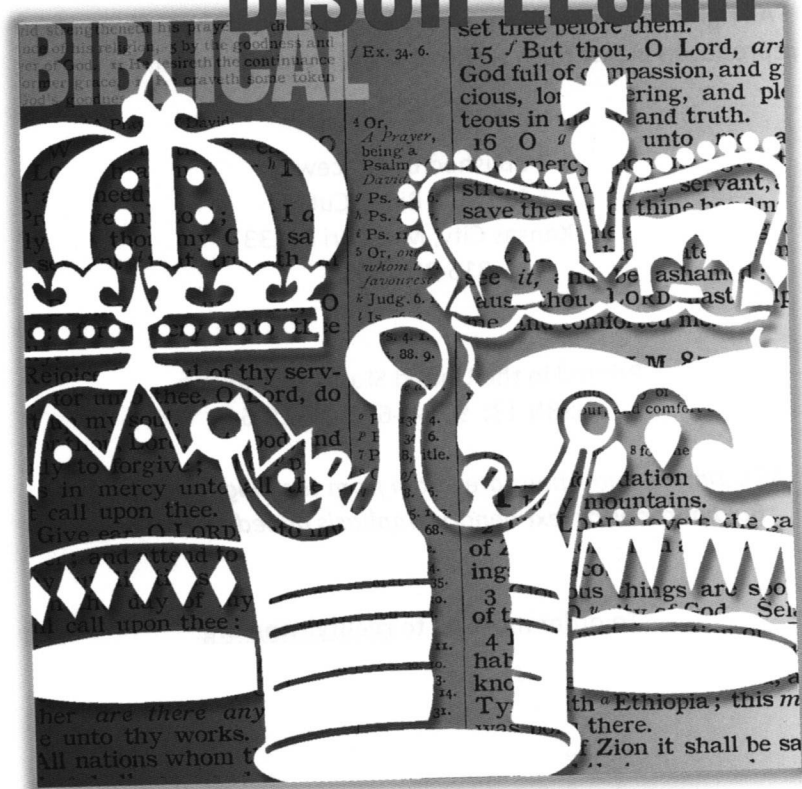


JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

16

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LESSON 16: THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

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

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 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. Understand the nature of the “Judgment Seat of Christ”.
 - A. Judgment faces every human being who has ever lived.

Proverbs 29:26; Hebrews 9:27

- B. Judgment for sin took place 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. Judgment for service to Christ takes place at the "Judgment Seat of Christ."

II 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.

I 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)

I 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.

I Thessalonians 2:4; Ephesians 6:6

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

*I 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 *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.

2. Some Christians will be found:

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

I John 2:28

- b. Suffering loss because their works were temporal and not eternal.

I Corinthians 3:15

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

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

B. Appearances and assumptions are deceitful.

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. Understand the rewards obtainable at this judgment.

The rewards obtainable at the Judgment Seat of Christ can be exemplified 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

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

II 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. **Incarnate 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 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. 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** – *I Peter 5:4* – the shepherd's crown. Given to those who pastor or shepherd 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. 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; II Thessalonians 3:5

2. **Peace.**
Crown of Glory - 1 Peter
Given to those who pastor or shepherd people in the Word
I Thessalonians 4:13-18

3. **Joy.**
The New Testament
saved people are to be actively teaching
I Thessalonians 2:19

4. **Holiness.**
I Thessalonians 4:1-11
I Thessalonians 3:13; I John 3:1-3

5. **Confidence.**
This reward requires great wisdom which can only be obtained from the Word of God.
Philippians 1:6; I John 2:28

6. **Diligence in service.**
Basic question: Why should I be concerned about the
II Timothy 4:1-8

7. **Righteous living.**
The focus on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ is one of the most practical for everyday living in the Bible. Notice in the following verses how many
Titus 2:11-14

8. **Faith even in difficult times.**
practical. Notice in the following verses how many
on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
I 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.

II Corinthians 4:17-5:4

- C. 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

NOTES

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.

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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

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 of which you should beware regarding the Judgment Seat of Christ. List them below.

A.

B.

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST
Lesson # 16

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.

What will you be judged for at the Judgment Seat of Christ?

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.

There are some things of which you should beware regarding the Judgment Seat of Christ. List them below.

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.

D

E

7. What is the difference between the rewards you receive on earth and the ones received at the Judgment Seat of Christ?

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

8. What is the greatest benefit in your life of constantly focusing on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ?

B

C

D

9. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

E

F

G

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 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 teaching are false and why.

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

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