

The Judgment Seat of Christ

- A. In Oct. 78, I had a supernatural encounter in which I was on my knees before Jesus. He said to me, ***“You are saved but your life was wasted”***. I protested, “You have the wrong person.” The thought came strongly to me that ***it is impossible to manipulate the Man Christ Jesus***. I cried, “Can I have another chance?” The next thought came strongly to me was that ***it is appointed unto a person to die once then comes the judgment*** (Heb. 9:27). I wept with a profound sense of loss and regret. Suddenly I was awake on my knees by my bed.
- B. What matters most about our life is what Jesus thinks when our eyes meet. I fear “regret” more than anything else in my life. I pray, “Lord, shock me now, do not wait until then”.
- C. The Judgment Seat of Christ is a place to receive rewards not penalties. The “judgment seat” in the Greek is the “bema seat”. The bema seat was a familiar term that described the raised platform where a judge rewarded the victors in an athletic contest (Olympic games). We will give an account for what we did with all that God gave us which includes time, money and energy along with a mind to think and emotions to feel and our talents and opportunities.
- ¹⁰ ***We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body... (2 Cor. 5:10)***
- D. This life is the only time in our eternal existence with such a high “exchange rate”. We offer our weak devotion and obedience to God and receive eternal rewards. God pays us so well for all that we do. He remembers the movements of our heart toward Him along with every small act of love such as giving a simple cup of water to someone (Mt. 10:42)
- E. Our God is a consuming fire of desire. Jesus’ eyes of fire will test our works (Deut. 4:24).
- ²⁴ ***For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. (Deut. 4:24)***
- ¹⁸ ***The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire... (Rev. 2:18)***

II. GAINING INSIGHT INTO THE VALUE OF TIME: MONEY IS POWER BUT TIME IS LIFE

¹² ***So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)***

⁴ ***Lord, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am. 5 Indeed, You have made my days as (short as) handbreadths, and my age (lifetime, NAS; the span of my years, NIV) is as nothing before You; certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. 6 Surely every man walks about like a shadow; Surely they busy themselves in vain... (Ps. 39:4-6)***

¹⁴ ***For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time then vanishes away. (Jas 4:14)***

¹⁴ ***Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light. 15 See that you walk circumspectly (vigilant, guarded or cautious), not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (Eph. 5:14-16)***

III. WE WILL ALL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

¹¹ No other foundation can anyone lay than...Jesus Christ. ¹² If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. (1 Cor. 3:11-15)

- A. The foundation of our life in God is our relationship with Jesus as born again believers who possess the free gift of righteousness (2 Cor. 5:17-21). Some believers are saved, yet as through fire. This speaks of being like one who is “pulled out” of the fire just in the nick of time.
- B. We can suffer the loss of some of our potential glory and position in the Millennium.
⁸ Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, that you may be rewarded fully. (2 Jn. 8; NIV)

IV. ETERNAL REWARDS: DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS IN DIFFERENT DEGREES

- A. There will be a vast range of degrees of glory and greatness among the redeemed. These rewards include gold, silver and precious stones and a varying measure of God's glory in our resurrected bodies, clothing, dwellings, position of responsibility and relationship with God.
⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun...and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. ⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. (1 Cor. 15:41-42)
- B. God's glory will be manifest in our resurrected body in varying measures (Dan. 12:2-3).
⁴³ Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. (Mt. 13:43)
- C. Our work assignment and authority over cities will bring us in close proximity to Jesus.
¹⁷ Because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities. (Lk. 19:17)
- D. We will receive varying praise from God (Jn. 12:26; 1 Pet. 1:7; Mt. 25:21, 1 Cor. 4:5).
⁵ Will bring to light the hidden things...then each one's praise will come from God. (1 Cor. 4:5)
- E. Those who endure temptation are given crowns (Jas 1:12).
- F. Our communion with Jesus will vary according to the degree that we have the spiritual capacity to receive from Him as the Morningstar (Rev. 2:28; 22:16; Gen. 15:1).
- G. Our garments have varying dimensions of God's glory (Rev. 3:4-5, 18; 16:15; 19:7-8).
⁸ Arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts...(Rev. 19:7-8)
- H. Treasures and rewards in heaven will include many things (Mt. 5:12; 6:4, 6, 18, 20; 10:41-42; 16:27; 19:21; Mk. 9:41; 10:21; Lk. 6:23, 35; 12:21, 33; 16:11; 18:22; Rev. 2:9; 3:18; 22:12).