

# The Judgment Seat of Christ

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## THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

- The “Judgement Seat” comes from the Greek word “bema” used for a raised platform on which judgments were decreed, orations given or awards given to winners of Olympic Games.
- Not to be confused with the “Great White Throne” judgment in which Christ will judge the wicked following the Millennial Reign - Revelation 20:11-15.
- The Judgment Seat of Christ follows the rapture of the Church.
- The Judgment Seat of Christ is for believers, NOT unbelievers. Every believer will give an account of himself before the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- The Judgment Seat is NOT to determine salvation, but heavenly rewards. Your eternal destiny will not be decided at the Judgement Seat; it is already determined by your faith in Jesus Christ.

*John 3:18 "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."*

- There will be no condemnation for sins confessed and repented of, for those sins are no longer on your account but permanently removed from your record.

*Hebrews 10:17 "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. "*

- **At the Judgment Seat of Christ, your service and works unto God will be judged:**
  - **the CHARACTER and QUALITY of the work** (*self-righteousness or the fruit of abiding in the vine Jesus Christ*)

*1 Corinthians 3:13 "each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done."*

*John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."*

- **the MOTIVE behind the work** (*done as unto the Lord to please Him for His glory or for selfish ambition and vain-glory*)

*1 Corinthians 4:5 "Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God."*

*Philippians 1:15 "Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will."*

## 2 Corinthians 5:9–11

9 So whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim to please him.**

10 For **we must all APPEAR** (*phaneroo - to make visible, to make clear*) **before the JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST,** so that **each one may receive what is due** for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

11 Therefore, **knowing the fear of the Lord,** we persuade others.

*judgment seat - (bema) step, raised place, tribunal, seat of judgment*

## Hebrews 4:13

*"And no creature is hidden from his sight, but **all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**"*

## Ecclesiastes 12:13–14

13 *The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.*

14 *For **God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.***

## Romans 14:7-13

7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

8 For whether we live, **we live unto the Lord;** and whether we die, **we die unto the Lord:** whether we live therefore, or die, **we are the Lord's.**

9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for **we shall all stand before the JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.**

11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12 So then **every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**

13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

## 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.

11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—

13 **each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.**

14 **If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.**

15 **If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.**

## 1 Corinthians 4:1–5

1 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

- 2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.
- 3 But with me **it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court.** In fact, **I do not even judge myself.**
- 4 For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me.
- 5 **Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation (praise) from God.**

## THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST - what are we rewarded for?

### PATIENT ENDURANCE TO THE END

#### 2 Timothy 4:7–8

7 **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.**

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day,** and not only to me but also **to all who have loved his appearing.**

#### Mark 4:14–20

14 The sower sows the word.

15 And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.

16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy.

17 And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, **when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.**

18 And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word,

19 but **the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.**

20 But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

#### Job 13:15

15 **Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him:** But I will maintain mine own ways before him.

#### 1 Corinthians 9:27

27 But **I discipline my body and keep it under control,** lest after preaching to others **I myself should be disqualified.**

#### James 1:12

"Blessed is the man who **remains steadfast under trial,** for **when he has stood the test** he will receive **the crown of life,** which God has promised to **those who love him.**"

### **Revelation 2:10**

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."

### **Revelation 3:10–11**

10 Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

11 I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

### **Hebrews 10:32-39**

32 But **recall the former days when,** after you were enlightened, **you endured a hard struggle with sufferings,**

33 sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated.

34 For **you had compassion on those in prison,** and **you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.**

35 **Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.**

36 **For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.**

37 For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay;

38 but **my righteous one shall live by faith,** and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him."

39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

### **2 John 8**

"Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward."