

JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

SCOPE: This lesson defines the Judgment Seat of Christ. It details the time, place, and purpose of this event.

- There are many different judgments that the Bible speaks about.
- Some judgments have titles such as the “Judgment Seat of Christ” and “The Great White Throne Judgment”
- Some judgments are without a title. The Old Testament is full of judgments that God made. Some resulted in blessing and some in destructions.

WHAT DOES JUDGMENT MEAN?

Judgment seat comes from the Greek word βῆμα translated as “bēma” and pronounced as *bay'-ma*

Judicial court, judge's seat; this can refer to human or divine judgment. From the base of G939; a *step*, that is, *foot breath*, by implication a *rostrum*, that is, *tribunal*: - **judgment-seat**, set [foot] on, throne.

The Random House Dictionary defines it as this:

Judgment- N, The act or instance of Judging.

Judge- V, 6. To decide or settle authoritatively

THE HISTORY OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT

Dr. Lehman Strauss writes: In the days of Paul the apostle, the judgment seat was well known.

“In the large Olympic arenas, there was an elevated seat on which the judge of the contest sat. After the contests were over, the successful competitors would assemble before the *bema* to receive their rewards or crowns. The *bema* was not a judicial bench where someone was condemned; it was a reward seat. (Willmingtons Guide pp. 827)

WHERE WILL THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST OCCUR?

Romans 14:10

10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. NKJV

- Romans 14:10 says we will stand before Christ. The throne of Christ is in Heaven, therefore, the location of this judgment will be in Heaven.
- This Judgment is not the same as the Great White Throne Judgment.

Revelation 20:11-15

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." KJV

- The Great White Throne Judgment will be to Judge the people that are dead and in hell. This occurs after the millennium.
- The saints of God will be present at this judgment to judge. Not to be judged.

1 Corinthians 6:1-3

"Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to the law before the unjust, and not before the saints? 2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things pertaining to this life? set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church." KJV

WHO WILL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST?

This judgment is strictly for the saints. The ungodly (those in hell) will not be judged until after the millennium. Then, when the ungodly are judged, the saints will already have been judged and will participate in the judging with Christ.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THIS JUDGMENT?

1. GOD IS GOING TO REVEAL YOUR THOUGHTS AND SECRET THINGS.

1 Cor. 4:2-5

2 Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful. 3 What about me? Have I been faithful? Well, it matters very little what you or anyone else thinks. I don't even trust my own judgment on this point. 4 My conscience is clear, but that isn't what matters. It is the Lord himself who will examine me and decide. 5 So be careful not to jump to conclusions before the Lord returns as to whether or not someone is faithful. When the Lord comes, he will bring our deepest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. And then God will give to everyone whatever praise is due. NLT

- The purpose of this judgment is for the Lord to open you up and evaluate you. This scripture emphasizes the fact that the Lord will manifest who you really are.
- He is going to judge your character and attitude. All your thoughts are going to be made manifest.
- The things you are hiding, God is going to bring them out. What is it that you are hiding?

Eccl 12:14

14 God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad. NLT

If you have secret sin, you better repent and forsake it, cause God will hold you accountable and will open it up on this day.

Question: Is there something in your life that you don't want people to know? Is there something that you do not want God to know?

God will not only bring out the evil secrets but the Good things also. What a glorious day if God finds our souls full of the Spirit.

NOTE: God will not hold you accountable for the sins He has forgiven you.

1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." KJV

Micah 7:19

"He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." KJV

Isaiah 38:17

"Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back." KJV

2. GOD IS GOING TO JUDGE YOUR WORKS

1 Cor 3:11-15

11 For no one can lay any other foundation than the one we already have — Jesus Christ. 12 Now anyone who builds on that foundation may use gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. 13 But there is going to come a time of testing at the judgment day to see what kind of work each builder has done. Everyone's work will be put through the fire to see whether or not it keeps its value. 14 If the work survives the fire, that builder will receive a reward. 15 But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss.

The builders themselves will be saved, but like someone escaping through a wall of flames. NLT

2 Cor 5:9-10

9 So our aim is to please him always, whether we are here in this body or away from this body. 10 For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in our bodies. NLT

Matthew 16:27

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." KJV

He is going to evaluate everything you did on earth for Him or against Him.

- ... fought for His cause
- ...developed and used the gift that He has given you
- ...shared the gospel of salvation with the world
- ...struggled, fought, and sweated for his kingdom
- ...worshiped Him
- ...dedicated your time to pray to Him and meditate on His word
- ...Paid your tithes
- ...dressed
- ...your obedience
- ...got along with everyone
- ...the quality and effort you gave Him
- ...the service you gave Him

All this, God is going to bring out. God is going to look at your fruit. We shall present before Him the Fruit we bore.

- We might present the fruit of the spirit
- Souls that we brought to Christ.
- People you have touched with hope
- People you have guided and developed
- All the ministering you have done while on earth
- Even the littlest insignificant things you have done like_____

James 2:24

"Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." KJV

24 So you see, we are made right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. NLT

3. YOU WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT TO GOD

Romans 14:10-12

10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." 12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. NKJV

Matthew 12:36

36 And I tell you this, that you must give an account on judgment day of every idle word you speak. NLT

We are Stewards

In the New Testament world, a steward was the manager of a large household or estate. He was appointed by the owner and was entrusted to keep the estate running smoothly. He had the power to hire and fire and to spend and save, being answerable to the owner alone. His only concern was that periodic meeting with his master, at which time he was required to account for the condition of the estate up to that point. [Willmington's Guide pp. 827]

- In like manner, we will give an account to our God. You will have to give a report about yourself that explains what you did and why you did it in regards to your life on earth.
- What are you going to say?
- What can you say about yourself when you come before God? Write on a piece of paper an account. Are you going to say, "I tried my best?"
- How well did you take care of my house? (Our bodies)
- How well did you tend to my field? (Souls)
- How well did you treat household? (Relationship with brethren)
- How dedicated were you to keeping up my house? Or were you out visiting other places or houses- world. One foot in and one foot out?
- How well did you work using the talents I gave you?
- How wisely did you handle the time I let you borrow?

4. YOUR PASTOR WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT FOR YOU.

Heb 13:17

17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. NKJV

Notice that the word is “them” not him. It is possible that more than one person will give an account for you. It is possible that church leaders may also give a report about you. Your mother and father may give an account.

This is why its so important to respect the leader(s) of the church. Our pastor will be giving a report about you. What is He going to say about you?

Hopefully it’s a good report and not a bad one. If it’s bad, the Bible says that it’s **unprofitable** for you.

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF THE JUDGMENT?

First thing we must understand is that **nobody will be sent to hell** as a result of this judgment. Everyone appearing in this judgment made the rapture. If there was going to be condemnation, you would have gone to hell when you have died or would have stayed on earth when God separated the wheat from the tares.

Here are some rewards that we will have automatically:

- Perfect glorified bodies (Phil 3:21)
- We shall not age, degrade, or wear out or dying (1 Cor. 15:53) (Rev. 21:4)
- No more crying (Rev. 21:4)
- No more sorrow an sadness (Rev. 21:4)
- No more pain (Rev. 21:4)

REWARDS WE SHALL RECEIVE

1. We shall all receive a “mansion”.

John 14:1-3

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. NKJV

The word “mansion” comes from the greek word “mone” (mon-ay) which means “*a staying*” It’s not going to be a literal mansion, but God has a place of staying for us. Each one of us is going to receive our own special place. Other versions replace “mansion” with the word “room”. The Spanish version says “Moradas”.

2. We shall be dressed in white robes. No more need of armor.

Rev. 3:5

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." KJV

- **We shall receive dominions and powers. We shall rule with Christ.**

Rev. 21:7

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." KJV

Rev. 2:26

"And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:" KJV

This shall happen at the millennium.

- **We shall be free from the second death- Lake of Fire (Rev. 21:14)**

Rev. 2:11

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death."

- **Distribution of crowns**

Are these crowns literal or symbolic?

John the revelator saw in the his vision, the throne of God. Around the throne were 24 elders and they each wore a crown. John writes how they were able to take them off and cast them before God. These might lead us to believe that they may be literal crowns.

Symbolic Crowns?

What does a crown symbolize? A crown is a symbol that denotes power, dominion, or ruler.

All the kings in the Bible wore crowns [2 Sam. 1:10, 12:30, 14:25, 2 Kings 11:12]

They put a crown on Jesus and called him King

Matthew 27:25

"And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!" KJV

Obviously, it cannot be a physical crown. But I believe it will be something we shall receive along with dominions.

- **The Incorruptible Crown**

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible." KJV

This is given to those who master the old nature. It is a crown that lasts forever and will never wear out.

- **The Crown of Life**

James 1:12

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." KJV

Rev. 2:10

"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." KJV

This crown is given to those who endure temptation.

- **The Crown of Righteousness**

2 Tim. 4:8

"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." KJV

This is given to those especially love the doctrine of the rapture.

- **The Crown of Glory**

1 Peter 5:1-4

"The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: [2] Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; [3] Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. [4] And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." KJV

This crown is given to faithful preachers and teachers.

- **The Crown of Rejoicing**

1 Thess. 2:19-20, Prov. 11:30, Dan. 12:3

This crown is given to soul-winners.

WHEN WILL THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST OCCUR?

This event will *not* occur while we are alive here on earth.

Hebrews 9:27

"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this, the judgment"

This will happen after we appear before the Christ in our glorified bodies.

Romans 14:10

"Why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before the Judgment seat of Christ" KJV

Conclusion: The "Judgment seat of Christ" will occur when we come before Him which will not happen until we are raptured, transformed, and inherit our glorified bodies. Therefore, the "Judgment Seat of Christ" will happen after the rapture and not before.

CONCLUSION

Are we all going to receive the same reward? No. Some will be rewarded more than others. Some will have loss.

1 Cor. 3:15

"If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." KJV

Give it your best here on earth cause you will be rewarded.

1 Cor. 15:58

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." KJV

Rev. 3:11

"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." KJV