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## The Judgment Seat Of Christ - Rewards

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The times that we are living in now, show us that many people do not believe in a literal heaven or hell, but as believers we know that this is not true. However, believers who are awaiting the return of the Lord Jesus Christ know that they will be standing at the judgment seat of Christ in order to receive their rewards.

Job ask "if a man die, will he live again?" As believers when we get older, begin think about this question, not really dying but making a transition to heaven, because we know that a place has been made for us.

In the first few verses of 2 Corinthians chapter 5, Paul teach us what happens to a believer when we depart from our bodies.

2 Cor 5:8 "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." KJV

Our spirit and soul goes on to be with the Lord, only the body remains behind in the ground.

2 Cor 5:10 "For we must all appear *and* be revealed as we are before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive [his pay] according to what he has done in the body, whether good or evil [considering what his purpose and motive have been, and what he has achieved, been busy with, and given himself and his attention to accomplishing]." AMP

2 Cor 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." KJV

The judgment seat of Christ is not a thing to be feared. This is a place where rewards will be passed out. Jesus, on the cross took the judgment for the believer, in hell He was judged for our sin, but the blood blotted out our sin. There is no remembrance of our sin. Under the law, the sin had to be dealt with on a yearly basis, but under the new covenant, when we accept Jesus as our personal Savior, sin will be completely blotted out, because of the shed blood of Jesus.

The believer will not be before the white throne judgment, this is for the unbeliever, and we will stand before the judgment seat of Christ only. Rewards will be passed out for the work we have done here on the earth, however, these rewards will be based on motives, why something was done, on our attitudes, were we joyful or complaining?

We will stand before Jesus to receive these rewards. Rewards will be given, depending on the type of ministry some have, there will be a larger accountability for others. We are going to be paid for all the things we have done.

Rom 14:10-13 "10 But 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. 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." KJV

Rom 14:10-13 "Why do you criticize and pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you look down upon *or* despise your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God [acknowledge Him to His honor and to His praise]. 12 And so each of us shall give an account of himself [give an answer in reference to judgment] to God. 13 Then let us no more criticize *and* blame *and* pass judgment on one another, but rather decide *and* endeavor never to put a stumbling block *or* an obstacle or a hindrance in the way of a brother." AMP

The judgment seat of Christ is a good place to be, we will be taken care of well there. However, we must be very careful not to be criticizing or judging our fellow believers. This will cause rewards to be reduced or erased. Jesus is the judge not us. Most believers do not look to the rewards that will be given, but that they have made it to heaven.

Paul is teaching us the importance of building our foundations on Jesus Christ, no matter what our abilities may be in the earlier verses of 1 Corinthians chapter 3, and what the result of not being built on Him will be. As a believer, we shall be saved, but our works will be burned up by fire.

1 Cor 3:12-15 "Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 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

We work for the kingdom of God out of our love for Jesus, not because there is a law saying that we have to, but because of our love. Our wanting to serve must be through a spirit of love, in order to help others.

1 Cor 15:38 "But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. 39 All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. 40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory." KJV

Some people will shine brighter in heaven, with greater rewards and greater responsibilities. Soul winners will be probably be in this group. There are also different levels of punishments in hell.

Matthew 25 tells us of the talents that were given to three individuals and what they did with that given to them, upon the return of the giver of the talents; each received what he had been responsible for. Two of them received great rewards for being faithful, "well done good and faithful servant". However one did nothing and was condemned to outer darkness.

Most Christians have no concept of heaven; it is not a place where everyone is flying around with wings. What a surprise they will have.

Rev 22:12 "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." KJV

Rev 22:12 "Behold, I am coming soon, and I shall bring My wages *and* rewards with Me, to repay *and* render

to each one just what his own actions *and* his own work merit." AMP

Rev 22:12 "Yes, I'm on my way! I'll be there soon! I'm bringing my payroll with me. I'll pay all people in full for their life's work." MESSAGE

Jesus said there would signs in heaven and when we are convinced that He is coming, we live our lives in the light of eternity.

Billy Graham made the statement that "life on earth is a mere dressing room for eternity". Paul said that "this world is not our home, we are only passing through." Our destiny is heaven.

Heb 12:1 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," KJV

Life is not a hundred yard dash, but is a marathon. Some cross the finish line before others, but those coming in last still have people encouraging them along the way. Keep running your race. Jesus is coming soon.