

God's Plan for the Future

Study Sheet

(Content herein based on the work of David Jeremiah, *The Book of Signs*; and from personal study notes)

The Judgment Seat of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:10

2 Corinthians 5:1-10 – *For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2) For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, (3) if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. (4) For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. (5) He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. (6) So, we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, (7) for we walk by faith, not by sight. (8) Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. (9) So, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. (10) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*

Two future judgments in the Bible:

1. The *judgment seat of Christ* (occurs immediately after the _____)
2. The *great white throne judgment* (occurs at the end of the _____)

The _____ of the judgment seat: To have every believer's earthly works evaluated to determine who receives rewards and what the nature of those rewards will be. Jesus Christ is the sole evaluator.

The _____ of the judgment seat: The *Bema*

Greek word meaning *judgment seat*

The Bema Seat was a place of authority from which one made announcements, speeches or judgments.

With regards to the judgment seat of Christ, three distinct categories are worthy of our examination:

1. The _____

The God of the Bible is the ultimate Judge. His judgment runs from the beginning of Genesis (3:14-19) and continues all the way to the end of God's redemption story in Revelation (22:12).

Eccl 12:14 – *For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.*

Luke 8:17 – *For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light.*

Romans 2:16 – *On that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.*

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.*

John 5:22, 27 – *The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son.*

(27) And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

Acts 10:42 – *And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.*

God's judgment will be final and complete.

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2. The _____

The judgment seat of Christ is for believers only.

Romans 14:10, 12 – *Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; (12) So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.*

2 Corinthians 5:10 – *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil*

3. The _____

The _____ concerning the Judgment

Two basic _____:

1. It is *not* to determine whether a person is permitted to enter heaven

"The only judgment to which a believer will ever have been subjected is the judgment on the cross. The believer was judged in the person of Christ. Jesus has borne our judgment, and there need not be any examination to see whether a child of God is permitted into glory, because the presence of the Holy Spirit in that believer is the believer's right to enter in without judgment or examination." —J. Dwight Pentecost

2. It is *not* to give an account for all the sins a believer commits after salvation

Romans 8:1 – *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

One biblical _____:

Jesus died for **all** sins committed before and since we trusted Him

All our sins were future when Jesus died for them

Romans 5:8 – *God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

The _____ of the Judgment

After the rapture of the church to heaven

1 Corinthians 4:5 – *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.*

James 5:9 – *Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.*

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The _____ for the Judgment

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 – *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.*

J. Dwight Pentecost: "...the gold, silver and costly stones are those things which God Himself creates and plants in the earth, and man can do no more than reap the bounty of God's provision. The wood, hay and stubble are those things that man plants, cultivates, harvests, manufactures, and uses according to his will. And so that which God is permitted to do in and through the child of God is gold, silver and costly stones. That which the individual does by his own power, for his own glory, because it suits his own will, because it promotes his own purpose, is the wood, the hay and the stubble."

The _____ of the Judgment

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]*

Rewards _____

1 Corinthians 3:15 – *If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.*

No believer will forfeit salvation no matter how many worthless things are done
When the day of testing comes, the day of pretending will be over

Rewards _____

_____ Crown

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 – *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So, run that you may obtain it. (25) Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath [crown, KJV], but we an imperishable. (26) So, I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. (27) But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.*

Crown of _____

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 – *For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting [rejoicing, KJV] before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? (20) For you are our glory and joy.*

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Crown of _____

2 Timothy 4:8 – *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.*

Crown of _____

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.*

Crown of _____

1 Peter 5:1-4 – *I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: (2) shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; (3) not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. (4) And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*

Rewards _____

Revelation 4: 10-11 – *The twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, (11) "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."*

Worshipping the _____ = the greatest reward of all!