

Sneak Peek at Coming Events #3

The Judgment Seat of Christ and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Rom 14:10; 2Cor 5:10; Rev 19:7-9

Introduction:

1. There is a forgotten truth in God's Word, a truth that some preachers have refused to preach, a truth that God's people have neglected, the truth of the judgment seat of Christ
2. The thought of having to someday stand before the Lord in judgment ought to be the greatest inducement to holy living
3. After hearing preaching on the GWT Judgment we may think that we are pretty well off and won't go thru any judgment.
4. Unsupported by family, spouse or attorney each believer must one day stand before the awful throne of Jehovah
5. My purpose for preaching this truth is to incite believers to a life of holy, faithful service in view of a future day of accounting before the Lord.
6. What a transformation would take place in churches if the awesomeness of the judgment seat of Christ was understood
7. Daniel Webster was once considered one of the greatest living Americans. He was an outstanding statesman, lawyer, orator and leader of men. At a special banquet given in his honor, twenty-five select national leaders gathered and one man at the banquet asked Webster, "Sir, what is the greatest thought that ever entered your mind?" Without hesitation, Webster answered, "The greatest thought that ever entered my mind was the thought of my responsibility to God." As he spoke, he wept, he excused himself from the banquet and went outside to gain control of his emotions. When he returned, he spoke for 30 minutes on man's responsibility to God.
8. We need to make adequate preparation for this meeting with the Lord.

I. What is the Judgment Seat?

A. The Phrase "Judgment Seat of Christ"

1. **Ro 14:10** 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.
2. **2Co 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.
3. No one at this judgment goes to hell and no unsaved people are present
4. The service and works of believers will be examined to determine our rewards
5. There is no getting out of this judgment
6. No concealment, no hiding, no excuses

B. In Bible Days, What Was a Judgment Seat?

1. Every three years at the stadium outside of Corinth the Isthmian Games were held.
 - a) *The contestants were professional athletes and they had to certify that they had been in training 12 months and had followed the rigid rules and guidelines.*
 - b) *The winner of an event had to appear before the judges*
 - c) *If the judges agreed that no rules had been broken then the victor was led to the center of Corinth where there was a stone platform 40 ft long and 20 ft wide and 8 ft high. - This was the bema.*
 - d) *Athletes were awarded their prizes there.*
 - e) *The laurel wreath was called the "victor's crown".*
2. Your Christian life is compared to a race and the Judge, our Lord Jesus Christ, is watching every Christian
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,

II. Who Will Appear Before the Judgment Seat?

A. Every Christian

1. The “we” in 2Cor 5:10 is used 26x in that chapter referring to all Christians
2. The lost are judged a thousand years later at the Great White Throne Judgment

B. Every Preacher

1. Will account for his own life and ministry
2. **Heb 13:7** Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.
3. **Heb 13:17** Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

III. When Will This Judgment Occur?

A. It Occurs After the Rapture

1. **1Co 4:5** Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.
2. **2Ti 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.
3. **Re 22:12** And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

B. It Occurs Before We Come Back with Christ to Reign and Rule with Him 1000 Yrs

IV. Why is There a Judgment Seat?

A. Judgment of Each Individual Believer

1. We will be judged fairly
2. We will be judged thoroughly

B. To Receive That Which We Have Done in the Body Whether Good or Bad – 1Cor 3:10-15

1. Paul took his duty as God's workman seriously – vs 10
 - a) *Paul wanted to build on the right foundation*
 - b) *Not on famous preachers – Apollos, Peter, Spurgeon*
 - c) *Not on worldly methods or a doctrinal hobbyhorse*
2. "Every man" shows our individual responsibility
3. Others have laid false foundations – vs 11
 - a) *Peter, baptism, good works, moral codes, tongues*
 - b) *Don't tamper with the foundation*
 - c) *The foundation is not promotion / programs*
 - d) *Jesus told the parable of two men who built houses, one on sand and the other on rock*
4. Proper materials for building – vs 12
 - a) *Gold, silver, precious stones picture*
 - (1) Real converts and mature believers produced through sound teaching
 - (2) Materials that are permanent, beautiful and valuable
 - (3) Materials that are hard to obtain
 - b) *Improper materials – wood, hay and stubble*
 - (1) May represent false converts and feeble Christians produced by false teachers and impure living
 - (2) These materials are passing and temporary
 - (3) Are ordinary and ugly
 - (4) Are cheap and easy to obtain
 - (5) Wood may represent careless service
 - (6) Hay may represent worthless service
 - (7) Stubble may represent leftovers
5. The work of preachers will be carefully examined by God
 - a) *Every believer will have to answer to God for how he lived his Christian life*
 - b) *Notice that the reason for the testing by fire was to find out of what sort the work was, not how much it was*
 - c) *Just like buildings must be inspected to see if they are in code, even so our lives must be inspected*
6. Abiding work is the goal of the ministry – vs 14
 - a) *Work that survives the test of time*
 - b) *Converts who last*

V. Rewards at the Judgment Seat

A. Faithfulness Brings Rewards – 1Cor 3:14

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

1. Those who have served God in the Spirit and according to the Word of God, will receive a reward
2. Faithfulness is the test, not quantity

B. The Five Rewards

1. "The Victor's Crown" - 1Cor 9:25-27 ←
 - a) *This is the crown for those who practice self-control over their impulses and desires.*
 - b) *Paul was careful to keep his body in subjection so that he wouldn't become a "cast-away"*
 - c) *He did not want to be disqualified for the prize*
2. The Crown of Rejoicing – 1Thess 2:19-20

19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?
20 For ye are our glory and joy.

 - a) *This crown is given to those who win souls for the Lord*
 - b) *Witnessing to others is the business of every believer*
3. The Crown of Righteousness – 2Tim 4:8
 - a) *This crown is for those who love the Lord's appearing*
 - b) *They are living soberly, godly and righteously in this present world*
4. "Martyr's Crown" – Ja 1:12; Rev 2:10 ←
 - a) *The believer must love the Lord even more than his own life*
 - b) *We are to be faithful unto death and we will receive the crown of life*
 - c) *During the Tribulation Period many will receive the Crown of Life because they will be slain for the Word of God and for the testimony of the Lord*
5. The Crown of Glory – "The Pastor's Crown" - 1Pet 5:1-4
 - a) *This is for the pastor who feeds the flock of God and does not lord it over his people*
 - b) *He is not in the ministry for financial gain or profit*
 - c) *It will be awarded by the "Chief Shepherd" when He appears*

C. What We Do with the Crowns

1. In heaven the elders cast their crowns before the throne of God in acts of worship – Rev 4:10-11

10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, **11** Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

2. Must I go and empty-handed, and thus my dear Redeemer meet? Not one day of service give him, lay no trophy at his feet. Not at death I shrink or falter, for my Savior saves me now; but to meet Him empty-handed, thought of that now clouds my brow.

VI. Loss is Possible at This Judgment – vs 15

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

A. The Possibly of Loss

1. If any man's works be burned up, he shall suffer loss, yet he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire
2. No one knows what exactly is meant by "suffer loss" but it will not be pleasant or enjoyable
3. We cannot afford to be careless or indifferent
4. What shame and regrets there will be

B. The Soul is Not Lost

1. This is a saved person and verse goes on to say, "...he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire"
2. Picture a man asleep in his house and the house catches on fire. Someone comes along and sees the fire, rushes it, drags the man out through the fire and takes him to safety. The house and everything is burned up, but the man is saved, "yet only as in passing through the fire."

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb – Rev 19:7-9

VII. The Preparation for the Marriage Supper

A. Christ is the Groom

1. [Matt 9:15](#) - when the Pharisees were finding fault with Jesus' disciples because they did not fast Jesus answered
2. [Jn 3:29-30](#) - John the Baptist refers to the bridegroom
3. [2Cor 11:2](#) and [Eph 5:23-32](#) - Jesus is the bridegroom, husband of the bride ←

B. The Time and Place of the Marriage Supper

1. The marriage takes place in heaven
2. Somewhere between the rapture -/return of believers w/ Christ
3. The judgment seat of Christ has already taken place
4. The wood, hay and stubble has been burned away
5. Only the gold, silver and precious stones remain
6. The bride stands without spot or wrinkle, holy and without blemish - [Eph 5:27](#)

VIII. The Purity of the Bride

1. The bride is adorned in fine linen - the righteousnesses (plural) of the saints
 - a) *Personal righteousness* - [Isa 64:6](#)
 - b) *Provided righteousness* - [2Cor 5:21](#); [Rom 3:21-22](#) ←
2. Wife claims no personal merit for any of her righteous deeds
3. By grace she is clothed in royal robes

IX. The People of the Bride

1. His church is the bride - Baptist bride
2. Members in good standing of the Lord's church are in the bride
3. This is the position I must take in order to be consistent
4. Some are the "friends of the bridegroom" - [Jn 3:29](#)
 - a) *OT believers*
 - b) *The saved who were not in the Lord's church*

Conclusion:

1. Christian, are you ready to give an account?
2. Don't think that only the lost will give account.
3. If your life was projected on a large screen for all to see, what would we see?
4. Would we see a bad temper? Bad thoughts? Improper motives?
5. Would we see a wasted life not used for Jesus?
6. Christian, will you go in empty-handed
7. Lost person – don't forget your judgment if you never trust Christ

It is said that Ivan of Russia, used sometimes to disguise himself and go out into his kingdom to find out the true character of his people. One night, dressed as a beggar, he went out into the suburbs of Moscow. Going house to house he asked for a night of lodging and was continually turned down. Ivan thought of the selfishness of his people and his heart sunk in discouragement. He decided to try one more door. This time the poor man invited Ivan in and offered him a piece of bread, a cup of water and a bed of straw. The poor man said, "I'm sorry I cannot do more for you since my wife has just had a baby and they need my attention right now. The emperor rejoiced in having found a right heart and slept through the night. In the morning he took his leave with thanks. In a few days the emperor arrived with his entire entourage and the poor man was shocked. He threw himself to the ground and asked, "What have I done?" Lifting the poor man up, the emperor explained that it was he who has slept on the bed of straw in the corner. "You received me in disguise and now I am come in my true character to reward you. Bring to me your new baby. This baby will be named after me and when he is old enough I will educate him and give him a place of service in my court and service." The emperor took out a bag of gold and handed it to the poor man. He told him to use the gold for him and his family and "if you ever need anything, just call on me." Something like this will happen at the judgment seat. Every deed done in Christ's name will earn recompense and reward from the Lord.