

## The Judgment Seat of Christ

*2 Corinthians 5:6-11*

### Introduction

In 2 Corinthians 5:6-11, Paul describes the longing one has to be in the presence of the Lord which should urge the Christian to live a current life that pleases Christ. Striving to please Christ with our current deeds is a natural out pouring of our love for Him. (John 14:15) While our good works are spurred on by our love for Christ, we must also be mindful that our actions, those that please the Lord and those that don't, will be subject to future judgment.

This future time of review will occur at the judgment seat of Christ, where every individual Christian will be judged by Jesus. It is important to understand that the judgment of believers is not one that bars you from eternity with Christ. (Romans 5:16-18; 8:1) Instead, the judgment seat of Christ, will determine what rewards, or the lack of rewards, will be assigned to every Christian. These rewards are based on whether or not one's deeds have been worthwhile or worthless in light of the Kingdom of God. Every individual believer will be judged personally by the Lord to determine the rewards that they will gain or lose.

Judgment of the quality of the works of the believer will occur as God looks at our lives. He will consider our faithfulness, our acts of kindness, the words we said and the motives we had. He will determine if we really obeyed him according to Scripture as the pattern of our lives. At the judgment seat of Christ, people will be rewarded according to their works. People who have lived lives committed to Christ will receive rewards that will relate to their responsibilities in the millennial kingdom and reign of Jesus Christ.

The anticipation of the judgment of these works does not imply that any of us will live a perfect life. When we fall in sin we have the opportunity, through Christ, to repent for our sins. Repentance is important because it is the key to getting us back on track both for our walk with Christ and the corresponding rewards available in eternity. Our works matter for the rewards that we can receive later. God will test our works "by fire" (1 Corinthians 3:10-15) to prove whether what we did was done for His glory or for ourselves.

### Getting Started

1. Based on your history as a Christian on a scale 1-10 how would you rate your preparedness for the judgment today? How well would you be rewarded? What would your rewards say about your level of commitment in living for Christ?
2. How did this week's message make you feel? What emotional impact did the message have?

### Let's Get Personal

1. Explain the difference between the "reward" you receive as a result of salvation and the "reward" you receive as a result of your works for Christ. Read Ephesians 2:8-9 as a part of your group discussion.
2. What is the difference between the "foundation" of your faith and the "building" of your faith? Use 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 to help you as you answer.
3. Luke 12:2-3 contrasts the concept of what we do in the dark versus what we do in the light? What have you done or are you doing in the dark that would be uncomfortable showing up in the light on the day of the judgment Seat of Christ?

### Take the Next Step

1. What does the Bible say about how we should conduct ourselves in light of judgment day? Take a look at 1 Peter 1:17 in discussing this question in your group.
2. What adjustments are you going to make moving forward in light of the judgment seat of Christ to come?
3. Want to dig deeper? Here are additional passages for your study: Matthew 12:36, 1 Corinthians 4:2, Hebrews 4:10-13, 2 Corinthians 4:8, 1 John 2:28, 2 John 1:8, Ephesians 6:8, Matthew 10:42, Revelation 21:4, and/or Matthew 25:14-20.

### Renew Your Mind

*"... that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming." 1 John 2:28*