

## After the Rapture, The Judgment Seat of Christ II Corinthians 5:8-10

INTRO: Following the rapture of the saints of God spoken of in I Thessalonians 4:16-18. After the shout, after the voice of the archangel, and after the trump of God, a great event takes place in the heavenlies: the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Friends, there are two threads that run through the Bible: two threads that run from Genesis to Revelation.

1. The Scarlet thread of Blood Redemption.
  - a. Hebrew 9:22, "...without shedding of blood is no remission."
  - b. Colossians 1:14, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."
  - c. Ephesians 1:7, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."
  - d. Black hearts need to be washed in Red blood so that they can be made white as snow!
2. The Golden Thread of the Second Coming:
  - a. Matthew 16:27, "The Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then shall he reward every man according to his works."
  - b. John 14:23, "In my Father's house are many mansions if it were not so, I would have told you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself..."

Be assured of this! Jesus Christ is coming again. There will be no substitute for the Bible says: "The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout." After Jesus comes again at the rapture, all of God's people will go before the Judgment Seat of Christ.

This judgment is not for and does not determine heaven or hell. This is determined before death.

1. I John 5:12, "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."
2. John 3:18, 26; 5:24.

### I. THE MEANING OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

- A. To understand what the Judgment Seat of Christ is all about we must see what the words Judgment Seat mean.

1. The words judgment seat come from one Greek word *bema* which means “a raised platform, or rostrum, the reward seat.”
  2. L. Sale-Harrison says: “In the Grecian games in Athens, the old Arena contained a raised platform on which the president (or umpire) of the Arena sat. From here, he watched all the contestants; and here he rewarded all the winners. It was called the ‘bema’ or ‘reward seat.’ It was never used as a judicial bench” (12).
  3. So my friends, we see that the Judgment Seat of Christ is a place of rewards. It is a reward seat not a judicial bench.
- B. The Judgment Seat is a reviewing stand in front of which all of God’s soldiers will pass. (Air Force reviewing stand.) We need to be ready for the time of rewards is coming. We are chosen to be soldiers (II Tim 2:4).

## II. THE MOMENT IT TAKES PLACE

- A. When does the Judgment Seat of Christ take place?
1. It takes place after the rapture of the saints and the beginning of the tribulation.
  2. It takes place after the just are raised at the rapture (Luke 14:14 “And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.”
- B. The Judgment Seat takes place between the rapture and the revelation.
1. Rapture– when we are snatched up to meet the Lord in the air.
  2. Revelation when we come back with the Lord to the earth (Rev 19).
  3. Matthew 16:27 fixes the time of the Judgment Seat.

## III. THE MASSING

- A. The Bible says: “we shall all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.” One day, the saints will be massed to pass in review.
1. Air Force– different flights of individuals but all massed on the parade ground to pass in dress review.
  2. One day the saints will be massed to go before the Lord.
- B. The massing will take place, not when Christ comes to reign but when He catches up His waiting people in the air. --It takes place in the heavenlies.

## IV. THOSE WHO SHALL APPEAR AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT

- A. The men, women, boys, and girls who will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ are the saved.
  - B. Only believers will appear before this reward seat (II Cor 5:1-10).
    - 1. The “we” of verse 10 is the same as the “all” of the verse—the saved.
    - 2. Only those who trust Christ and Him alone for salvation will be at this reward seat. Reading verses 1-10 and carefully considering what they say proves that the Judgment Seat of Christ is for the saved.
- V. THE IMPACT OF THIS JUDGMENT
- A. The results of the *bema* are clearly illustrated in I Corinthians 3:11-15.
  - B. Vs 11, the foundation on which the believer builds is Jesus. He is the only foundation we can have and get into heaven.
    - 1. Works cannot and will not save us (Titus 3:5; Eph 2:8-9).
    - 2. Jesus is “the way, the truth, and the life.”
  - C. Vs 12, Materials for building on the foundation:
    - 1. Gold, silver, precious stones— these will endure. They will pass the test of time. They will make it through the fire. They are indestructible. The right building materials include:
      - a. Prayer,
      - b. Bible study,
      - c. Works of love because you are saved (Eph 2:10).
      - d. Obedience to God,
      - e. Compassion for souls (Prov 11:30; Dan 12:3; Psa 126:5-6).
      - f. Right motive- to bring glory to God (I Cor 6:20).
    - 2. Wood, hay, and stubble. Friends, you can build a fine spiritual house on your great foundation or you can build a chicken coup of wood, hay, and stubble. These will be burned away.
      - a. Worldliness,
      - b. Rebellion against God’s Word, against His principles,
      - c. Bad attitude,
      - d. Cold and indifferent spirit (This makes God sick.)
      - e. Lack of prayer and Bible study.
  - D. Vs 13, The truth about us and our works will be revealed, shown for what they are.
    - 1. The eyes of the Lord will examine our works as we pass in

- review.
  - 2. No in-between– either good or bad.
  - 3. Tested by fire– the eyes of the Lord. Rev 1:14, “His eyes were as a flame of fire.”
- E. Vs 14, By building with the right materials, a reward can be expected.
- 1. The gold, silver, and precious stones will abide.
  - 2. There are degrees of rewards in heaven (II Cor 9:6).
- F. Vs 15, Some will get in but barely.
- 1. Saved by the blood–yes.
  - 2. Having the right foundation–yes–vs 11.
  - 3. They get in with their coattail smoking because of being unfaithful to the Lord Jesus.

**CONCLUSION:** No one goes to heaven because they are good enough. The only way to heaven is believing on the Lord Jesus. The true believer desires rewards, so he can cast them at Jesus’ feet (Rev 4:10).

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