

Part 3 The Judgment Seat of Christ: Going for the Gold

I. RECEIVING ETERNAL REWARDS

- A. ***Review:*** God has given each of us a specific assignment based on the capacities that He gave us physically, mentally, emotionally, financially, and in our life circumstances. Each believer will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of what we did with what God gave us and to receive eternal rewards for it. It is the most significant appointment in our life.
- ¹⁰ We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body...¹¹ Knowing...the terror of the Lord, we persuade men... (2 Cor. 5:10-11)*
- B. Paul gave us important details about our future appointment at the judgment seat of Christ.
- ⁸ Each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor...¹⁰ Let each one take heed how he builds...¹¹ No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.¹² If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. (1 Cor. 3:8-15)*
- C. ***Own reward:*** Each receives his own reward. There will be a vast range of degrees of reward. Our varying rewards include a differing measure of God's glory in the areas of our life such as our resurrected bodies, clothing, dwelling place, position of authority, and relationship with God.
- ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun...and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. (1 Cor. 15:41-42)*
- D. ***Our foundation:*** The gift of Jesus' righteousness is our foundation (2 Cor. 5:17-21). Our deeds are built on this foundation. We are saved by faith in His work, but rewarded according to ours.
- E. ***Rewarded according to own works:*** We are not rewarded according to our life vision or plans (intention), but according to our follow-through with deeds that we did in our body (2 Cor. 5:10).
- ²⁷ The Son of Man will come...He will reward each according to his works. (Mt. 16:27)*
- ¹² My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. (Rev. 22:12)*
- F. ***Each one's work:*** Paul emphasized our work (4x in v. 13-15), which speaks of our life decisions and ministry to others. Our works must pass through God's fire. Some of it will endure and some will burn. It is possible to use the wrong building materials.
- G. Paul spoke of six building materials:
1. ***Gold, silver, precious stones:*** Are of great value, rare, found in small quantities below the ground, and are not diminished by fire, but purified.
 2. ***Wood, hay, straw:*** Are of little value, common, found in large quantities above the ground, and are destroyed by fire. These include dead works that are done for man's praise (Mt. 6:1-6).

- H. ***Revealed by fire:*** Jesus' pure and all-knowing eyes of fire will test our works. His fire will reveal the truth. Because Jesus is the truth, the truth is always revealed in His presence.
¹⁸ ***These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire... (Rev. 2:18)***
- I. In verse 13, Paul used four different terms to convey the idea that the truth or true nature of our work and deeds will be fully revealed. He wrote that our work will become clear, will be declared, revealed, and tested (or proven) to make known what **sort** of work it was.
³ ***Your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. (Col 3:3-4, NAS)***
- J. ***Our work endures or is burned:*** The work that endures the fire of God is rewarded. The work that is burned receives no reward. The work that receives reward is one which honors the Word, is motivated by love, and is done before God's eyes instead of man's, seeking his approval.
- K. ***Suffer loss:*** It is possible to suffer the loss of some of our potential reward in the Millennium. Jesus exhorted us to not let anyone take our crown. He was not referring to them taking our salvation. Crowns can be lost by allowing teachers to seduce us with false doctrines of grace.
⁸ ***Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully (2 Jn. 8; NIV)***
¹¹ ***Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. (Rev. 3:11)***
- L. ***Saved as through fire:*** Some will be saved as through fire. This phrase describes one who survives a burning building by escaping through the flames, yet loses all that they carried with them. They are pulled from the fire just in time, losing all. This phrase is taken from Amos who spoke of "a firebrand plucked from the burning" (Amos 4:11; Zech. 3:2; Jude 23). Some peoples' once "cherished ministry" will burn like hay, yet the person will survive the flames and be saved.
- M. Jesus called us to buy gold by developing our relationship with Him and obeying Him. Gold is the anointing to walk out the first commandment as defined by the Sermon on the Mount.
⁸ ***I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich... (Rev. 3:18)***
- N. We are not left guessing as to what God considers greatest. The greatest calling and grace is the anointing to receive God's love and return it to Him. It is our greatest possession and our greatest ministry calling. The success and power of our life is found in walking in the grace to love God. We readjust the primary dream of our heart by choosing a radical shift in the way we picture our life and future and how we define success. We decide that the "primary dream" of our life is to walk in the anointing to live out the first commandment. We change the way we picture our life.
³⁷ ***You shall love the Lord...with all your heart...³⁸ The first and great command... (Mt. 22:37-38)***
- O. This life is the only time in our eternal existence with this "exchange rate." We offer our weak devotion and obedience to God and receive eternal rewards. God pays us so well for all that we do. He remembers every small act of love, even giving someone a cup of water (Mt. 10:42).