

The Judgment seat of Christ: Going for the Gold (Parts 1-4)

I. A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

- A. The most important appointment in our life is yet to come. It is when we stand before the Lord at the judgment seat of Christ (Rom 14:10-12) to give account of what we did in this life and how we used the life, gifts, influence, and resources that He gave us.
- B. In October 1978, I had a supernatural encounter in which I was on my knees before Jesus. He said to me with very serious look, ***“You are saved, but your life was wasted.”*** I protested, thinking, “This is a mistake. You have the wrong person.” The thought rose up that ***it is impossible to manipulate the Man Christ Jesus.*** I cried, “Can I have another chance?” The next thought came in a powerful way—that ***it is appointed unto man to die once, then comes the judgment*** (Heb. 9:27). I wept with a profound sense of loss and regret. Suddenly I was awake on my knees by my bed.
- C. I understood that the Holy Spirit allowed me to feel such great sorrow and regret so that I would live in such a way as to ***not have regret on the last day.*** He made it clear to me that if I were to be content with the low measure of dedication that is so common today, then Jesus would tell me on the last day that ***“I was saved, but my life was wasted.”***
- D. What matters most about our life is what Jesus will think when our eyes meet. I fear “regret” more than anything else in my life. I pray, “Lord, shock me now; do not wait until then.”
- E. We must measure our dedication not by what others consider to be dedication but to only accept the measure of dedication that is described by the Word of God.

¹²We dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those...they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. (2 Cor. 10:12)

II. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST: THE PLACE OF REWARD

- A. Each believer will stand before Jesus at His judgment seat to give an account of what we did with what God gave us (Rom. 14:10-12). The Lord gives each person life assignments based on the capacities that He gives them physically, mentally, emotionally, financially, and in their life circumstances. We are not accountable for what we do not have.
- ¹⁰We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ...¹²Then each of us shall give account of himself to God. (Rom. 14:10-12)***
- B. ***Judgment seat:*** The judgment seat or the “*bema seat*” in the ancient world was a place to receive rewards, not penalties. It was a familiar term, describing the platform a judge sat on to evaluate athletic contests, as in the ancient Olympic Games (Mt. 27:19; Jn. 19:13; Acts 18:12). God keeps detailed records of all that happens in His books (Dan. 7:10; cf. Ps. 139:16; 87:6; Ex. 32:32; Dan. 12:1; Lk. 10:20).

- C. **Rewards:** Rewards express how Jesus feels about our love for Him in this life and about how we worked closely with Him in what He calls precious, not about gaining superiority before others.
²⁷*The Son of Man will come...He will reward each according to his works. (Mt. 16:27)*
¹²*I am coming...My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. (Rev. 22:12)*
⁸*Each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor...¹²If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw...¹³the fire will test each one's work...¹⁴If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. (1 Cor. 3:8-14)*
- D. We are not left guessing as to what God considers *first and greatest*. Loving God with all of our heart is the *first* emphasis of the Spirit in our lives, and it is the *greatest* calling on anyone's life. The success, greatness and power of anyone's life are found in walking in the grace to love God.
³⁷*"You shall love the LORD with all your heart...³⁸This is the first and great commandment."*
(Mt. 22:37-38)
- E. Jesus called us to buy gold by developing our relationship with Him and obeying Him. We "buy gold" by making choices that express our love to Jesus through our obedience to Him (Jn. 14:15).
¹⁸*I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich... (Rev. 3:18)*

III. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST: LIVING BEFORE GOD'S EYES

- A. We are saved as a free gift, by faith in Jesus' work, but we are rewarded according to our works. Our entrance into heaven is not based on our works, but our place and role in heaven is.
¹⁰*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Cor. 5:10)*
- B. Our works greatly matter. Some misunderstand the value of their works, since no one can be saved based on their good works, so they falsely conclude that their works do not matter.
1. **Things done in the body:** We are rewarded not according to our plans or intentions to do good, but according to the actual deeds that we did in our bodies. The Lord rewards our follow-through with actions.
 2. **Good or bad:** We will not answer for anything that we repent of and put under the blood of Jesus. The deeds we have "confidence not to repent of" will be the ones we answer for.
- C. Jesus remembers every small act of love, even giving someone a cup of water (Mt. 10:42). Every deed that we do is seen and rewarded by God, no matter how unnoticed it is by men (Heb. 6:10).
⁴²*And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward. (Mt. 10:42)*
¹⁰*God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints... (Heb. 6:10)*
⁸*...knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord... (Eph. 6:8)*

- D. This life is the only time in our eternal existence with this “exchange rate.” We offer our weak love and obedience to God and receive eternal rewards. God pays us so well for all that we do.
- E. Which audience are we living before and whose applause are we seeking? Jesus called us to a life of charitable actions that include investing our time, money, words, and prayers to help others. The Father sees our works, even when men do not. Jesus called us to set our hearts to avoid sounding a trumpet before men—to avoid drawing attention to ourselves. We are to resist drawing attention to how devoted, anointed, or generous (with money, time, and words) we are.

¹Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father... ²When you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do...they have their reward... ⁴Your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you. (Mt. 6:1-4)

- F. Paul contrasted two ways of living: living as unto God or as unto man. That is, living to seek the applause of God or of men. Living unto Jesus is an essential aspect of walking in freedom.

⁶Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord... (Eph. 6:6-8)

- G. **Eyeservice, as men-pleasers:** This speaks of serving to gain the applause and recognition of men by serving with more humility, generosity, diligence, and purity when someone is watching. The key issue is: *to whom do we look* and *who do we want to look back at us?* Do we look for the applause of Jesus or of men, and do we want Jesus or men to look back at us? We know we are looking to men if we get offended when we serve diligently and are ignored or criticized for our labors.

- H. Moses made decisions to resist the pleasures of sin and to embrace God’s will, even when it caused hardship. He did this because he looked to the reward and saw Him who is invisible. Many see enough of Jesus to receive salvation, but not enough to live with diligent endurance.

*²⁵[Moses]...choosing rather to suffer affliction...than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin...
²⁶he looked to the reward... ²⁷he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. (Heb. 11:25-27)*

IV. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST: A PLACE TO RECEIVE REWARDS

- A. Paul gave us important details about our future appointment at the judgment seat of Christ.

⁸Each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor... ¹¹No other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³each 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. ¹⁴If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If 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)

- B. **No other foundation:** The gift of Jesus’ righteousness is our foundation (2 Cor. 5:21). Our deeds are built on this foundation. We are saved by faith in His work, but rewarded according to our work. Our entrance into heaven is not based on any of our works, but our role and function in heaven is.

- C. **Each one will receive his own reward:** Jesus will express how He feels about our love for Him.
- D. **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. ⁴²So also is the resurrection of the dead. (1 Cor. 15:41-42)*
- E. **According to his works:** Paul emphasized the value of our work, mentioning it four times (v. 13-15). Our work speaks of our life decisions and ministry to others.
- F. **His own labor:** It takes effort and is often costly, difficult, and inconvenient. It includes making the effort to be attentive to God so that our relationship with Him is enriched.
- G. Paul spoke of six building materials. It is possible to use the wrong building materials.
1. **Gold, silver, precious stones:** These are of great value, rare, found in small quantities below the ground, and are not diminished by fire, but purified.
 2. **Wood, hay, straw:** These are of little value, common, found in large quantities above the ground, and are destroyed by fire. They include dead works that are done for man’s praise (Mt. 6:1-6).
- H. Jesus called us to buy gold by developing our relationship with Him and obeying Him. We “buy gold” by making choices that express our love to Jesus through our obedience to Him (Jn. 14:15).
¹⁸*I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich...* (Rev. 3:18)
- I. **Revealed by fire:** God’s fire will test the true quality of each one’s works. All our work must pass through the fire. Some of our work will endure, and some will burn. Paul used four terms to convey that the true nature of our deeds will be revealed (v. 13). He wrote that our work will become *clear* and will be *declared, revealed, and tested* (or proven) to make known what **sort** of work it was.
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. (1 Co 3:13)*
1. **If anyone’s work endures:** The type of work or deeds that endures the fire is rewarded—it is work that honors the Word, is motivated by love, and is done before God’s eyes.
 2. **If anyone’s work is burned:** Work that is burned receives no reward. This refers to the kind of work that is motivated by seeking for man’s approval.
- J. **Suffer loss:** It is possible to suffer the loss of some of our potential reward in the Millennium. To suffer indicates the pain of feeling great regret.
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)*

1. One can lose what they worked for and come up short of a full reward (2 Jn. 8; NIV).

⁸Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. (2 Jn. 8; NIV)

2. Jesus exhorted His people to not let “anyone” take their crown. He was not referring to salvation, because no one can take our salvation. Crowns can be lost by allowing people to seduce us into compromise, even using false doctrines about God’s grace.

¹¹Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. (Rev. 3:11)

- K. ***But he will be saved, yet so as through fire***: This phrase describes one who survives a burning building by escaping through the flames. They were pulled from the fire just in time, yet they lost all their possessions in the fire. 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.

V. SEVEN TYPES OF ETERNAL REWARDS

- A. There will be many different types of heavenly rewards that believers will receive at the time of the second coming. In this study, we consider different categories of heavenly rewards. These rewards are an important part of our destiny. Therefore, all believers should be familiar with them. The subject of our heavenly rewards is not of secondary importance.

- B. ***Rewards***: Rewards express how Jesus feels about our love for Him in this life and how we expressed that through co-laboring with Him. Jesus desires His Bride to be with Him where He is and doing what He is doing. The saints will have great joy in working closely with Him.

²¹I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord. (Mt. 25:21)

- C. There are many types of heavenly rewards that we receive at the second coming.

- D. Revelation 1-3 mentions 22 rewards that Jesus promised for those who overcome compromise. We receive our heavenly rewards at the time of Jesus’ second coming.

- E. These 22 promises can be grouped in eight categories: receiving white and/or bright garments (Rev. 3:5, 18); a place of authority or influence over the nations (Rev. 2:26; Rev 3:12, 21); receiving a crown or jewels to honor loving obedience to Him (Rev. 2:10, 17); the story of one’s loving devotion to Jesus being manifested and retold (Rev. 2:17; 3:5); gold or heavenly treasure, or avoiding the loss of it (Rev. 2:11; 3:18); receiving a spirit of revelation to encounter God with greater capacity (Rev. 2:28; 3:12, 18, 20); dining with Jesus (Rev. 2:7, 17); and being vindicated before one’s enemies (Rev. 3:9).

- F. The centerpiece of God’s eternal purpose is for Jesus to come back to fully establish His kingdom rule over all the earth and to join the heavenly and earthly realms together (Eph. 1:9-10).

⁹Made known to us the mystery [hidden plan] of His will... ¹⁰that He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth. (Eph. 1:9-10)

VI. THERE WILL BE DIFFERENCES IN OUR HEAVENLY REWARDS

- A. Some in the kingdom will be called the least and some the greatest (Heb. 8:11; Rev. 11:18; 19:5).
¹⁹Whoever breaks [consistently] one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches [encourages] them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Mt. 5:19)
- B. There will be a vast difference in heavenly gifts and the measure in which people will experience God's glory in the age to come. They will vary according to the measure of our obedience. The Pistol Star has a mass of over 100 times that of the sun, and it is 10 million times brighter.
⁴¹There is one glory of the sun...and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. ⁴²So also is the resurrection of the dead. (1 Cor. 15:41-42)
- C. As there is difference of gifts, ministries, and activities in the Body of Christ in this age, so there will be great diversity in all of these in the age to come (1 Cor. 12:4-6, 11, 18-19).
⁴There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶And there are diversities of activities... (1 Cor. 12:4-6)
- D. For example, one's *communion* with Jesus will vary according to their varying spiritual capacity (Rev. 2:28; 22:16; cf. Gen. 15:1). One's *position* when gathering before God in the New Jerusalem is affected by one's obedience now (Lk. 14:7-24). We will receive *praise* from God according to our deeds (Jn. 12:26; cf. 1 Pet. 1:7; Mt. 25:21, 1 Cor. 4:5). Our *work assignment* with varying authority and responsibility (Mt. 19:28, 30; 20:16, 27; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21). One's heavenly *garments* will vary in how they express God's glory (Rev. 3:4-5, 18; 16:15; 19:7-8). We will receive *crowns* (1 Cor. 9:25; 1 Thes. 2:19; 2 Tim. 2:5; 4:8; Jas. 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 2:10; 3:11). We will receive *riches* and treasures (Mt. 5:12; 6:4, 6, 18, 20; 10:42; 16:27; 19:21; Lk. 6:23, 35; 12:21, 33; 16:11; 18:22; Rev. 2:9; 3:18; 22:12) including a heavenly *dwelling place*.

VII. REWARD #1: RESURRECTED BODIES

- A. God's glory will be manifest, or reflected, in our resurrected bodies in different measures.
⁴³The righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. (Mt. 13:43)
²Those who sleep in the dust [physical death] of the earth shall awake [resurrection]...
³Those who are wise shall shine...like the stars forever and ever. (Dan. 12:2-3)
- B. We will receive a resurrected body that is conformed to Jesus' body. His body is full of light that is brighter than the sun (Isa. 24:23; Hab. 3:4; Acts 26:13-14; Heb. 1:3; Rev. 1:16; 21:24; 22:3-5).
²¹Will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body... (Phil. 3:21)
²He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun... (Mt. 17:2)
- C. The saints are filled with God's light, glory, and the perfection of beauty.
¹⁷Let the beauty of the LORD...be upon us, and establish the work of our hands... (Ps. 90:17)

- D. Our five senses will be enhanced by the supernatural power of the Spirit in our:
1. **Sight:** seeing clearly at a distance or at close range
 2. **Hearing:** at distances and with great perception and perfect balance, etc.
 3. **Taste:** enjoyment of food and water to the fullest degree (1 Cor. 10:31; Rev. 22:1-2)
 4. **Touch:** to have glorified physical senses to feel the glory of God
 5. **Smell:** to enjoy and bring to remembrance important moments of our lives
- E. We will possess supernatural abilities:
1. **To think:** to learn, grow in understanding, and to remember
 2. **In health:** There will be no fatigue or lack of energy, nor sickness nor death.
 3. **In strength:** expressed in our speed, endurance, and strength in lifting objects
 4. **In the material realm:** modes of travel and passing through walls like Jesus did?
 5. **To communicate:** to speak, sing, play musical instruments, etc. Our communication skills will be deep and clear without mistakes, as we fully comprehend another's intent.

VIII. REWARD #2 HEAVENLY GARMENTS

- A. Heavenly garments are rewards that express our dedication. They differ with each believer. Our garments begin with the gift of righteousness that is imputed to us by faith (2 Cor. 5:21). We are rewarded for our acts of righteousness done in this age.
- ⁸To her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Rev. 19:8)***
- B. I believe that each will have varying degrees of glory in their garments. There may be many different types of clothing with unique designs, fabric, brightness, coloring, and fragrance, etc. One's garments may be diverse according to the different occasions that they participate in. The brightness will reflect different things in the age to come. Each person will have a distinct history in God and will receive clothing that expresses the quality of their devotion to Jesus during this life.
- C. The word *white* speaks of the brightness of the garments. *White* (Gk. *leukos*) may refer to that which is "shining or glistening" (Mt. 17:2; Rev. 3:4, 5; 6:11; 7:9, 13; 19:14). The white and/or bright robe is only one aspect of our garments in the age to come.
- ²He was transfigured before them...His clothes became as white as the light. (Mt. 17:2)***
- ⁶Clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. (Rev. 15:6)***
- D. The priestly garments give us insight into the value that God has on garments and how they speak of spiritual things. God designed them to be beautiful and to show His glory and the glory of the priest and the dignity of the priesthood. The Old Testament priestly garments had different colors (red, blue, purple, white, etc.). The breastplate was worn over the ephod and had shoulder-pieces with onyx stones. The ephod was worn over the robe, which was worn over the coat and girdle.
- ²You shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty... ³Make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest. ⁴And these are the***

garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash...⁴⁰ You shall make hats for them, for glory and beauty...⁴² Make for them linen trousers ...they shall reach from the waist to the thighs. (Exod. 28:2-4, 40-42)

IX. REWARD #3: AUTHORITY TO REIGN

- A. The eternal functions most emphasized in the Word are priests and kings (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6).
¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. (Rev. 5:10)
⁴ I saw thrones, and they [the saints] sat on them, and judgment [decision-making] was committed to them...and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4)
- B. As priests, resurrected saints will worship, intercede, and communicate the knowledge of God to others. As kings, ruling will include evaluating the past, determining future action plans, and appointing people who serve in the infrastructure under their authority.
² The saints will judge the world...the world will be judged by you... ³ Do you not know that we shall judge [evaluate] angels? (1 Cor. 6:2-3)
- C. Our work assignment in reigning with authority over nations and cities will bring us into close proximity to Jesus (Dan. 7:22, 25-27; Mt. 19:28, 30; 20:16, 27; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21). Some will receive greater authority than others. Part of our identity and uniqueness will be seen in the work assignment that God gives us.
²⁶ He who overcomes...I will give power over nations—²⁷ "He shall rule them." (Rev. 2:26-27)
²¹ To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My Throne... (Rev. 3:21)
- D. Jesus promised the apostles that because of their obedience they would sit on thrones, judging Israel (Mt. 19:28; Lk. 22:29-30). I do not think that all believers will have a governmental position.
²⁷ "We [the apostles] have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" ²⁸ Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration [re-birth of the earth beginning in the Millennium], when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." (Mt. 19:27-28)
²⁹ I bestow upon you a kingdom...³⁰ that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Lk. 22:29-30)
- E. Some will have more authority or responsibility in the millennial earth based on their response to Jesus in this age (Mt. 25:21; Lk. 19:17-19).
¹⁷ Because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.¹⁸ And the second came...¹⁹ likewise he said to him, "You also be over five cities." (Lk. 19:17-19)
²¹ "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." (Mt. 25:21)

X. REWARD #4: HEAVENLY CROWNS

- A. Some will be rewarded with various crowns, and some will not. Receiving a crown is not the same as having the free gift of eternal life that all born-again believers automatically receive by faith. It is not related to salvation, but to one's honor and sphere of function. Receiving a crown is like winning a gold medal. God will only give this crown to believers who are worthy of it.

¹¹*I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. (Rev. 3:11)*

- B. There are two Greek words describing two different types of crowns in the New Testament. One is the crown of a ruler (Gr. *diadem*); the other is the crown of a victor (Gr. *stephanos*), as in one who won a race in the ancient Olympic Games. The Greek word *stephanos* or crowns is used in 1 Cor. 9:25; Phil. 4:1; 1 Thes. 2:19; 2 Tim. 2:5; 4:8; Heb. 2:7, 9; Jas. 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 2:10; 3:11; 4:4, 10; 9:7; 12:1; 14:14. This is not the same as the gift of eternal life that all born-again believers automatically receive by faith. This crown is not related to salvation, but to a position of honor.

- C. Those who endure or persevere against lust so as to overcome it shall receive a crown. Crowns of authority are only given to those who endure in resisting temptation until the end.

¹²*Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved [found consistent], he will receive the crown of life...promised to those who love Him. (Jas. 1:12)*

- D. There are many New Testament references to the crowns that a believer may receive (1 Cor. 9:25; Phil. 4:1; 1 Thes. 2:19; 2 Tim. 2:5; 4:8; Heb. 2:7, 9; Jas. 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 2:10; 3:11; 4:4, 10; 9:7; 12:1; 14:14). Twice the crown is referred to with the descriptive title, the "crown of life" (Jas. 1:12, Rev. 2:10); once as the "crown of righteousness" (2 Tim. 4:8); once, the "crown of glory" (1 Pet. 5:4). The different titles probably refer to different nuances of the same reward.

XI. REWARD #5: PRAISE FROM GOD

- A. Believers will receive varying praise from God (Jn. 12:26; 1 Pet. 1:7; cf. Mt. 25:21, 1 Cor. 4:5).

⁵*The Lord comes who will...reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise [affirmation] will come from God. (1 Cor. 4:5)*

⁷*That the genuineness of your faith [response to God]...may be found to praise [affirmation], honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus... (1 Pet. 1:7)*

²¹*Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things... (Mt. 25:21)*

- B. Jesus will confess before His Father and His angels the names of those who overcome. I do not think this a reference only to being saved, but of Jesus speaking before the Father about our love, exploits, and obedience. The story of our loving devotion to Jesus will be retold by Jesus and other saints (like when we enthusiastically tell the story of others after we read their biography).

⁵*I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. (Rev 3:5)*

- C. The name written on the white stone is comparable to having your name engraved on a personal award. The new name indicates achievements in love that describe our relationship with Jesus.

¹⁷I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written... (Rev. 2:17)

XII. REWARD #6: HEAVENLY GOLD, RICHES, AND TREASURE

- A. Jesus called us to seek to gain treasure in heaven and to be rich (Mt. 5:12; 6:4, 6, 18, 20; 10:41-42; 16:27; 19:21; Mk. 9:41; 10:21; Lk. 6:23, 35; 12:21, 33; 16:11; 18:22; Rev. 2:9; 3:18; 22:12).

²⁰Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... (Mt. 6:20)

²¹So is he who...is not rich toward God... ³³Provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail. (Lk. 12:21, 33)

- B. Riches and treasures in heaven will include many things (Mt. 5:12; 6:4, 6, 18, 20; 10:41-42; 16:27; 19:21; Mk. 9:41; 10:21; Lk. 6:23, 35; 12:21, 33; 16:11; 18:22; Rev. 2:9; 3:18; 22:12). Acquiring gold and treasure or “becoming rich” in heaven includes the treasure that will be seen in the heavenly mansions (their location and design), our crowns (status of royalty, or as a trophy or medal for heroic love), garments (Ps. 45:11), and jewelry that exhibit our dedication to God.

XIII. REWARD #7: COMMUNION WITH JESUS AND PEOPLE

- A. Our communion with Jesus will vary according to the degree that we have the spiritual capacity to receive from Him. We will each receive a varying measure of revelation to encounter God in intimacy. Jesus will reward some by writing the name of the Father and His own new name on them (Rev. 3:12; 19:12). This speaks of receiving increased revelation of God.

¹²I will write on him the name of My God...and I will write on him My new name. (Rev. 3:12)

- B. “Morning star” is a reference to Jesus (Num. 24:17-19). His face shines like the sun (Rev. 1:16). Jesus giving us the morning star is a promise of deeper relationship with Himself. Each believer will experience varying capacity to receive more of Jesus (Rev. 2:28; 22:16; cf. Gen. 15:1).

²⁸I will give him the morning star. (Rev 2:28)

¹⁶I, Jesus...am the Bright and Morning Star. (Rev 22:16)

- C. Dining with Jesus speaks of deep fellowship with Him. It includes receiving greater revelation of His heart. In other words, the saints will be rewarded with greater intimacy with God. The full reward related to dining with Jesus will be in context to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9; cf. Lk. 22:16, 29, 30; Mt. 26:29; Mk. 14:25).

²⁰I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. (Rev. 3:20)

- D. Precious stones were given as awards to honor those who offered valiant service to the community or in battle. Some who *achieved* special status in athletics won a gold medal. In the ancient world, precious stones were given as awards to honor those who offered valiant service to the community, or in battle, or for athletic accomplishments (receiving a gold medal).

¹⁷I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it. (Rev. 2:17)

- E. The “stone” (Gk. *petros*) refers to a precious stone (diamond). “White” (Gk. *leukos*) refers to “shining or glistening” (Mt. 17:2; Rev. 3:4, 5; 6:11; 7:9, 13; 19:14). These white stones may be precious stones like the gems in the foundations of the wall of the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:19-20), those on the high priest’s breastplate (Ex. 28:17-21), and like Lucifer once had (Ezek. 28:13-14).
- F. In New Testament times, those receiving these stones were also given privileges, such as admission to special events, including the games and feasts hosted by the government of the Roman Empire.
- G. Receiving the white stone may be somewhat comparable to receiving a personal award for an exceptional accomplishment—like a Nobel Prize, MVP, an Emmy, Grammy, gold medal or championship ring, etc.
- H. Our history with people will be cherished (2 Cor. 4:14; 1 Thes. 2:19; Phil. 2:16; cf. Lk. 16:9).
¹⁹What is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? (1 Thes. 2:19)

XIV. WHAT WILL OUR RESURRECTED BODIES BE LIKE?

- A. Scripture gives insight into the nature of our resurrected body (Dan. 12:3; Mt. 13:43; Rom. 8:21-23, 29; 1 Cor. 15:35-58; 2 Cor. 5:1-8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thes. 4:13-17; 1 Jn. 3:2; Rev. 21:4). This is enriched by insight into Jesus’ resurrected body (Lk. 24:13-53; Jn. 20-21; Acts 1:3-11)
- B. God will give us a resurrected body that will be conformed to Jesus’ own resurrected body. The Father “custom designed” Jesus’ body, giving Him the best design possible. We will be like Him in spirit, soul, body, mind, emotions, and in the dwelling in which we live.
²¹Will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body... (Phil. 3:21)
²We know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him... (1 Jn. 3:2)
- C. Paul outlined five qualities in our resurrected body that will affect all of our specific abilities.
⁴²The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body...⁵²The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For...this mortal must put on immortality. (1 Cor. 15:42-53)
 1. **Corruption, but raised in incorruption:** Vitality and strength replace sickness and decay.
 2. **Dishonor, but raised in glory:** Purity and honor replace failure, shame, and dishonor.
 3. **Weakness, but raised in power:** Safety and prosperity replace injustice, vulnerability, and pain.
 4. **Natural body, but raised a spiritual body:** Supernatural capacities replace natural ones.
 5. **Mortality puts on immortality:** Unending life and love replace physical death and loss.

- D. Jesus' resurrected body is full of light that is brighter than the sun (Isa. 24:23; Hab. 3:4; Jn. 8:12; Acts 26:13-14; Heb. 1:3; Rev. 1:16; 21:24; 22:3-5). His robes are radiant with light (Ps. 104:1-2). Jesus' eyes have fire in them, which speaks of His holiness and tenderness (Rev. 1:14; 19:12).

²*He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun... (Mt. 17:2)*

³*Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being... (Heb. 1:3 NIV)*

- E. Jesus could veil His glory fully or partially or unveil it to show His terrifying glory (Rev. 1:17; cf. Lk. 24:37). At times, Jesus was not recognized as He veiled His resurrection glory (Lk. 24:16, 31; Jn. 20:14-15; 21:4). He could suddenly appear or vanish from sight.

¹³*Two of them were traveling that same day to...Emmaus...¹⁵Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶Their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him...³¹Their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight... (Lk. 24:13-31)*

³⁶*As they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them [apostles], and said to them, "Peace to you."³⁷But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. (Lk. 24:33-37)*

- F. Jesus' resurrected body has "supernatural flesh" with bones and has the capacity to eat food.

³⁸*He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have...⁴¹He said to them, "Have you any food here?"⁴²So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish...⁴³He took it and ate in their presence. (Lk. 24:38-43)*

- G. John added details to the events occurring in Luke 24. Jesus walked through the wall to enter a room when the doors were shut (Jn. 20:19, 26). He showed them the scars in His hands, feet, and side (Jn. 20:27). During His third appearance, He prepared a fire and cooked fish (Jn. 21:9-14).

¹⁹*When the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."²⁰When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side... (Jn. 20:19-20)*

²⁴*Thomas...was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵He said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."²⁶After eight days...Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst...²⁷He said to Thomas, "...reach your hand here, and put it into My side." (Jn. 20:24-27)*

- H. Jesus appeared to His disciples to teach them for forty days and then traveled on a cloud.

³*He presented Himself alive after His suffering...being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God...⁹While they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. (Acts 1:3, 9)*

XV. THIS LIFE IS AN INTERNSHIP

- A. Life in this age can be likened to a seventy-year internship (Ps. 90:10) that prepares us for our life on earth in the age to come. Our next stage of life in the Millennium is our most important ministry calling and will last for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:4-6).
- B. The Lord has chosen to select “His leadership team” to bring all the nations to obedience in the millennial kingdom. He will choose this team from among those who lived faithfully before God from the time of Adam until Jesus’ second coming.