

## LIFE AFTER LIFE: "Under Review – Part 2"

### INTRODUCTION

- **The doctrine of the judgment seat of Christ:** one day we will stand before Jesus Christ and we will give an account.

"Resolved, to endeavor to obtain for myself as much happiness, in the other world, as I possibly can, with all the power; might, vigor, and vehemence, yea violence, I am capable of, or can bring myself to exert, in any way that can be thought of." (Jonathan Edwards)

### THE TEXT DEALING WITH THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST (2 COR 5:9-10)

1. The **AMBITION**: "we make it our aim to please him." (v.9)
2. The **APPEARANCE**: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ," (v.10)

The great statesman Daniel Webster was once asked, "What's the most sobering thought that has ever entered your mind?" He quickly responded, "My personal accountability to God."

- **Judgment Seat** (Bema) – speaks of a raised platform, a judicial tribunal. The word was used to describe a raised platform in a sports stadium.

#### Characteristics of the Bema:

- A. **Inevitability**: "For we must all appear" (v.10)
    - This will be a summons, not a suggestion (Romans 14:12).
    - We will make a defense of ourselves: every one will speak about how we lived and how we acted.
  - B. **Individuality**: "so that each one may receive what is due" (v.10)
    - There will be no anonymity on this day, no melting into the crowd.
    - All of the hiding Christians will be exposed. No one will be able to melt into the crowd.
  - C. **Intense**: "For we must all appear" (v.10)
    - The word "appear" means to "make manifest".
    - The outcomes of this judgment seat are permanent and the results are lasting.
  - D. **Issues**: "each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil" (v.10)
    - The "things done in the body" refer to all of life, post-conversion.
    - Includes things we didn't do that we should do ("sins of omission").
  - E. **Imminency**: "before the Lord comes" (1 Cor 4:5)
    - The judgment seat of Christ occurs immediately after the Rapture.
    - Like a "pop quiz": we need to be ready.
- 3, The **AWARDS**: There are rewards in heaven.

"There are different degrees of happiness and glory in heaven. . . In heaven are many mansions, and different degrees of dignity. . . Christ will reward all according to their works." (Jonathan Edwards)

# Sermon Application Questions

November 17, 2019

## PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

This is the second message on the subject of the **judgment seat of Christ**.

This doctrine teaches us that someday we will stand before Jesus Christ and will give an account of our service to Christ.

In what ways does this teaching bring clarity and focus to our lives?

Write down some of your own personal reflections on this subject.

2

Ponder Jonathan Edwards' statement: "Resolved, to endeavor to obtain for myself as much happiness in the other world, as I possibly can, with all the power; might, vigor, vehemence, yea violence, I am capable of, or can bring myself to exert, in any way that can be thought of."

If you and I were to take this perspective to heart, how would our approach to life and service be transformed?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week's sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

### **1 Corinthians 3:12-15**

Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw – each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

### **1 Corinthians 4:1-5**

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in the darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

### **Romans 14:7-12**

For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

### **Revelation 22:12**

Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

**Read Romans 14:10-12** and reflect on its meaning and application for your life.

One of the sobering realities is that “each one of us” – that is, each of us individually – will stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

**2** Pastor Philip explained that the phrase “give an account” means that each one will speak something about how we lived and how we acted.

How would you “give a defense” of your life today? Prayerfully write down your reflections on how you are stewarding your time, talents and resources.

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

One of the encouraging truths connected to the judgment seat of Christ is that no good work done in the name of Jesus Christ will go unnoticed or unrewarded.

Jesus said, “And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.” (Matthew 10:42)

**1** Paul teaches us that at the judgment seat of Christ, “each one will receive his commendation from God”. (1 Corinthians 4:5)

What are the opportunities to serve Christ that the Lord has given to you today? Resolve to be faithful in the area God has placed in you in.

C.T. Studd said, “Only one life, twill soon be past. Only what’s done for Christ will last.”

**2** Why is it easy to get caught up in pursuing the temporal things of this world rather than the eternal values of heaven?

Write a prayer to the Lord expressing your heart’s desire to live for what is eternal.

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