

LIFE AFTER LIFE: "Under Review – Part 1"

INTRODUCTION

- There is coming a day when the church will come **under review** at the judgment seat of Christ.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:10 – "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,"
 - Romans 14:12 – "So then each of us will give an account of himself to God"
- There are aspects of life on earth that will determine aspects of life in heaven. **What we do today lasts forever.**

“. . . you and I have one shot at forever. Every day I live is important, momentous. . . **We have one shot at making our lives count for Jesus Christ.**" (De Courcy)

THE THEOLOGY OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

1. **WHO:** The judgment seat of Christ is a judgment of **church-age believers**.

Several Judgments in the Bible:

- Judgment of Old Testament Believers (Daniel 12:1-3)
- Judgment of Tribulation Believers (Revelation 20:4-6)
- Judgment of Jews Living at the Second Coming of Christ (Ezekiel 20:34-38)
- Judgment of Gentiles at the Second Coming of Christ (Matthew 25:31-43)
- Judgment of Satan and Fallen Angels (Revelation 20:10)
- Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15)

→ There will be degrees of reward at the judgment seat of Christ, but no one will be lost (1 Corinthians 3:12-15).

2. **WHEN:** The judgment seat of Christ will occur **after the Rapture of the Church** (1 Corinthians 4:5, James 5:9).
3. **WHERE:** The judgment seat of Christ occurs **in heaven** (John 14:1-6).
4. **WHAT:** The judgment seat of Christ is not a judgment on **sin**. It is a judgment on **service**.
 - This is a judgment on the stewardship of our lives and the motives with which we served the Lord.
 - The issue at stake in this judgment is not **eternal destiny** but **eternal reward**.

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

1. The **AMBITION:** Paul had an ambition to please Christ (v.9)

What pleases God?

- Faith (Hebrews 11:6)
- Surrender (Romans 12:1-2)
- Obeying parents (Colossians 3:20)
- Helping others (Philippians 4:18-20)
- Not offending others (Romans 14:18)
- Learning God's ways (Ephesians 5:10)
- God-centered prayer (Colossians 1:10)

Sermon Application Questions

November 10, 2019

PERSONAL RESPONSES

Have you ever heard a sermon on the **judgment seat of Christ**?

Why is it important to distinguish the **judgment seat of Christ** from the number of other judgments spoken of in the Bible?

1 How does the purpose of the **judgment seat of Christ** (2 Corinthians 5:9-10) differ from the purpose of the **Great White Throne Judgment** (Revelation 20:11-15)?

What difference should this make in our lives?

Ponder Pastor Philip's statement:

2 "you and I have one shot at forever. Every day I live is important, momentous. Every thought that occupies my mind, every deed I put my hand to has eternal significance. . . **We have one shot at making our lives count for Jesus Christ.**"

If you and I were to take this perspective to heart, how would our approach to life and ministry be challenged and 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.

Psalm 58:11

Mankind will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous; surely there is a God who judges on earth.

Matthew 5:11-12

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 10:40-42

"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. 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."

Romans 14:10-12

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 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 keeping the theme of the judgment seat of Christ in mind.

How would you summarize Paul's main idea in this passage?

2 What are the aspects of a believer's life that will be evaluated at the judgment seat of Christ (v.5)?

What is the standard by which the believer will be evaluated? (v.2)

How should this truth **motivate the believer** to holy living?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Bishop Lightfoot gave the following charge to the young men he was investing in:

1 "Transport yourselves in thought from the initial to the final enquiry. The great day of inquisition, the supreme moment of revelation is come. The Chief Shepherd, the Universal Bishop of souls is the questioner. It is no longer a matter of the making of the promises, but of the fulfillment of the promises. The 'Wilt thou' of the ordination day is exchanged for 'Hast thou' of the Judgment Day – 'Hast thou been diligent in prayer?' 'Hast thou framed and fashioned thy life?'"

Evaluate your current lifestyle in relation to the coming judgment seat of Christ. Are there any changes that you need to make in your life and ministry in light of that coming day? Try to be as specific as possible.

2 David Brainerd was a missionary to the native Indians of New England. He died at the age of twenty-nine. He once told Jonathan Edwards: "I do not go to heaven to be advanced but to give honor to God. It is no matter where I shall be stationed in heaven, whether I have a high seat or a low seat there. . . My heaven is to please God and glorify Him, and give all to Him, and to be wholly devoted to His glory."

How can you please God today? **Hint:** Review the points under "What pleases God" as an aid to answering this question.
