

# **JUDGMENT SEAT**

*The bible is clear that all people will stand before God one day to face judgment. For the Christian, that judgment will be at the judgment seat of Christ where we are judged for our works and service to the Lord Jesus Christ. You should be looking for that day when you will be held accountable to Jesus Christ.*

**The key word of this lesson is:**

*SERVICE*

**The key question this lesson answers:**

*What will I be held accountable for at the Judgment Seat of Christ?*

**The key purpose of this lesson:**

*To keep the believer focused on eternal matters by outlining our final accountability to the Lord Jesus Christ as his servant.*

**The key point of this lesson:**

*You will be judged as a servant of Jesus Christ.*

**MEMORY VERSES:**

*“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”*

**– 2 Corinthians 5:10**

*“So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” – Romans 14:12*

# WHAT IS THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST?

## **Every person who has ever lived will be judged by God.**

The lost will be judged, and found guilty at the great white throne judgment, while the saved will be judged at the judgment seat of Christ.

*“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”*  
– **Hebrews 9:27**

*“Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the LORD.”*  
– **Proverbs 29:26**

## **A. Every believer will one day be presented before the Lord Jesus Christ.**

God desires for you to be blameless in his sight when you are presented before Him.

*“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight:”* – **Colossians 1:21-22**

*“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*  
– **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

## **B. All believers will give an account for their Christian service at the judgment seat of Christ.**

*“But why dost thou judge thy brother: or why dost thou set at nought thy brother: for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”* – **Romans 14:10-12**

## **God's judgment of your sin took place on the cross at Calvary.**

By placing your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior, your sins were paid for, and you do not have to fear the judgment of your sins.

*“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”* – **2 Corinthians 5:21**

*“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”*  
– **1 Peter 2:24**

## **DISCUSSION:**

Are you ready to be presented before the Lord Jesus Christ?

# WHAT WILL YOU BE JUDGED FOR AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST?

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## THE KEY POINT OF THE LESSON!

Jesus Christ expects you to glorify him with your life, therefore you will be judged for the works you performed as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ after your salvation.

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” – Ephesians 2:10*

### A. You will be judged for how you built upon the foundation of your salvation in Jesus Christ.

The bible uses gold, silver, and precious stones to illustrate works that have eternal value; while wood, hay, and stubble refer to works that have no eternal value.

**1 Corinthians 3:10-12**

### B. You will be judged by the quality of your works, not by the quantity of them.

God is not going to judge the amount of works that you do, but rather the kind of works you serve him with. He is more concerned with the purity of your heart attitude than in the amount of your works for him. Your love for Jesus Christ will produce the right kind of actions.

**1 Corinthians 3:13**

## IMPORTANT NOTE:

You should always do what is right even if you do not feel like it. Do not allow what is perceived as an improper heart attitude to keep you from doing good works for the Lord. You should serve the Lord in humbleness of heart, not allowing feelings and emotions to keep you from that service.

*“Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.”  
– Proverbs 16:3*

## DISCUSSION:

How would you describe the quality of your service for the Lord?

How is God being glorified through your life?

# HOW WILL YOU BE AFFECTED AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST?

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As your work is examined and tried by fire, your eternal works will remain while your fleshly works will be destroyed.

*“Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” – 1 Corinthians 3:13-15*

## A. There are negative consequences at the judgment seat.

1. Some Christians will be found to suffer loss because their works were focused on earthly things and not eternal things. Their works were of the wrong sort (*wood, hay, stubble*).

**1 Corinthians 3:15**

2. Some Christians will be ashamed in God’s presence for not having lived for the Lord Jesus Christ when he returns.

**1 John 2:28**

3. Some Christians will stand before the Lord in their nakedness because they did not serve the Lord faithfully in this life.

**2 Corinthians 5:2-3; 2 John 8**

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

You should be mindful that appearances and assumptions can be deceitful, even in your own life. You are very capable of wasting your life in religious activity, yet never actually doing anything of significance for the Lord. God knows our hearts.

*“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” – Galatians 6:7-8*

1. Be sure that your service is for the Lord, and not for your own fleshly desires.

**Luke 16:15**

2. Be sure that you are investing in heavenly rather than earthly rewards.

**Matthew 6:19-20**

## B. There are rewards available to the New Testament believer at the judgment seat of Christ.

All believers will receive the reward of the inheritance of a glorified body in the eternal presence of God.

***Colossians 3:23-25; Philippians 3:20-21***

God promises that those who suffer for him in this life will rule and reign with him.

***Romans 8:16-19; 2 Timothy 2:11-12***

### 1. The Crown of Righteousness

This crown is given to those who love the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ. Your overriding desire should be to be with the Lord at all times.

*“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them that love his appearing.” – 2 Timothy 4:7-8*

### 2. The Crown of life

This crown is given to those who love Christ. Their love motivates them to lay down their lives when overcoming temptation and facing persecution.

*“Fear none of these things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” – Revelation 2:10*

*“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” – James 1:12*

### 3. The Incorruptible Crown

This crown is given to those who have not fallen away from the faith, and have maintained a testimony of Jesus Christ to others by being temperate or moderate in all their physical, spiritual, and mental matters of life.

*“And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” – 1 Corinthians 9:25*

#### 4. The Crown of Rejoicing

This crown is given to those who lead people to Jesus Christ. There is rejoicing in heaven when someone is saved.

*“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?” – 1 Thessalonians 2:19*

#### 5. The Crown of Glory

This crown is given to those who shepherd or pastor people in the word of God. Any believer should be actively investing the word of God into others.

*“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking eh oversight thereof, not by constraint but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.” – 1 Peter 5:4*

### **ANY REWARD THAT YOU MAY RECEIVE BELONGS TO THE LORD.**

Any work that you have done of eternal value was accomplished by Jesus Christ through you. He alone has the preeminence, and he alone gets the glory.

*“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” – Philippians 1:6*

*“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” – Philippians 2:13*

There is an example given for you in the book of Revelation as the 24 elders lay down their crowns at God’s throne and give him glory. May you have the same heart, and cast all glory to the Lord Jesus Christ for what he has done in your life.

*“The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”  
– Revelation 4:10-11*

### **DISCUSSION:**

What can you expect to happen when you are at the judgment seat of Christ?

How does the reality of the judgment seat of Christ affect the way you view your life?

# HOW CAN YOU PREPARE FOR THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST?

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## A. Focus your life on the things that will matter in eternity.

Remember, the bible uses gold, silver, and precious stones to illustrate works that have eternal value; while wood, hay, and stubble refer to works that have no eternal value.

*“Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man’s work shall be made manifest...” – 1 Corinthians 3:12-13*

### 1. Gold represents deity.

When you worship, serve, and magnify Christ as God, you lay up gold in heaven.

*Exodus 39:30*

### 2. Silver represents redemption.

When you tell another person about the price that Jesus paid for them, you lay up silver in heaven.

*Zechariah 11:10-12*

### 3. Precious stones represent the souls of men and women.

When you lead someone to Christ, you lay up precious stones in heaven.

*1 Peter 2:4-5*

## B. Focus on pleasing the Lord with your life now.

If God is pleased with your life now, he will be pleased with you at the judgment seat of Christ.

*“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.” – 2 Corinthians 5:8-9*

## C. Focus on being held accountable for your life.

Live your life in a way that is pleasing to him, knowing that you will one day give an account for how you served him.

*“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”  
– 2 Corinthians 5:10-11*

## **D. Focus on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Focusing on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ is one of the most practical doctrines for everyday living in the bible. When you focus on seeing Jesus Christ face to face, it produces many character qualities in you.

1. It produces PATIENCE in your heart.

***James 5:7-8***

2. It produces JOY in leading others to faith in Christ.

***1 Thessalonians 2:19***

3. It produces HOLINESS within you.

***1 Thessalonians 3:13***

4. It produces COMFORT in sorrow.

***1 Thessalonians 4:16-18***

5. It produces CONFIDENCE that God is not finished with you.

***Philippians 1:6***

6. It produces DILIGENCE to serve the Lord until the end.

***1 Timothy 4:1-8***

7. It produces RIGHTEOUS living in the present world.

***Titus 2:11-14***

8. It produces FAITH even in difficult times.

***1 Peter 1:5-7***

### **DISCUSSION:**

Are you living your life for the things that will matter in eternity?

Is there an area of your life that is out of focus and needs to be redirected?

Do you possess any of the character qualities that come from focusing on the return of Jesus Christ?



# REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

1. According to *1 Corinthians 3:11-15*, what will we be judged for at the judgment seat of Christ?

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2. Why will we not be judged for our sin?

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3. What are the five crowns that we can be given? Provide a brief description and scripture reference for each.

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- b. 

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- c. 

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- d. 

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- e. 

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4. Why should we focus on the judgment seat of Christ?

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5. What is the key purpose of the lesson, and what has it taught you?

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# PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Explain in your own words how *2 Corinthians 4:16-18* relates to the judgment seat of Christ.

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Read *Colossians 1:21-23*. According to this passage, God wants his children to be presented blameless before him. What is the warning given in this passage that would cause someone to not be presented blameless?

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Read *Colossians 3:1-4*. What does this passage say about where you are to place your affection? According to this passage, your life is hidden in Jesus Christ. Where is Jesus right now? What does this passage promise us about his return?

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Read *2 Timothy 4:6-7*. The apostle Paul was ready to be presented before the Lord because he was confident that he accomplished everything he could for the Lord. Are you ready to be presented before the Lord? What commitments can you make to the Lord so that you can finish strong for him?

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