

The Judgment Seat of Christ

9-6-17

1. Rewards – Good and Bad I Corinthians 3:12

1. The end time events as we call them begins with the rapture of the church. The rapture signifies the beginning of the seven year period called the tribulation. For seven years the Lord will be dealing with the Jews and gentiles who have not yet accepted Jesus. He will also be pouring out judgment and wrath on the forces of the antichrist
 - a. The Lord always gets His people out before judgment (**Genesis 7:16 S1**) Noah and his family entering the ark (**Genesis 19:22 S2**) Lot commanded to leave Sodom & Gomorrah; (**I Thessalonians 5:9**) God has not appointed us (Christians) to wrath
2. (**Ephesians 3:15 Slide 3**) right now the church is separated, some are in heaven and some are on earth; the whole church is to stand before the Lord at the Judgment Seat of Christ – how will this happen? The rapture of the church
3. **I Thessalonians 4:13-18** a biblical description of the rapture
 - a. At the rapture all Christians rise to meet Jesus in the air; this ends the Church Age
 - b. The rapture of the church is God's sovereignty, it is going to happen
 - c. Believers who are alive at the time of the rapture are going to heaven
 - d. The only way God can get the entire family in heaven and earth together at one time is the rapture of the church
 - e. We will all receive resurrection bodies, go to heaven and for 7 years while God judges the earth Jesus will be seated on the JSC and we will be there before Him
 - f. Good and bad Christians will be in heaven and stand before the JSC
 - g. Revelation 2 & 3 describe the church age; Jesus dealing with the seven churches that make up the universal church

Revelation 4:1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." **v2** Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

v6 Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. (all flaws seen - that is the church)

4. **2 Corinthians 5:10** the judgment seat of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:10 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.

- a. (**Romans 14:10, 12 Slide 4**)
5. **v10** 'Judgment seat' bema; it does not mean judgment, bema means rewards
 - a. In the ancient world, the best games were in Corinth and were the equivalent to today's Olympics

- b. Those who won an event would stand before the bema seat
 - c. The king would be sitting on the bema seat and the winner would stand before him
 - d. The king would reach over and place a crown of olive leaves on his head
 - e. The crown meant: tax exemption for the man and his family for the rest of their lives; they were fed, clothed and educated at public expense for the rest of their lives; they were given free room and board and permanent seats to the games for the rest of their lives
6. (**Ephesians 5:27 S5**) at the judgment seat of Christ the Lord Jesus will remove all of the spots and wrinkles of the church; the church will never be without spots and wrinkles while we are on the earth

1 Corinthians 3:12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, **v13** 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. **v14** If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. **v15** If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss;

- a. All of us will go to heaven with good works and not so good works
 - b. As we stand before the Lord we will be judged for good and bad deeds which we have done
 - c. Paul did not call anyone by name but is addressing each individual
 - d. Each of us has two piles GSPS; WHS
 - e. At the JSC man is not judged, his works are
 - f. Fire is going to try every man's work to determine what kind it is
 - g. Fire will burn up WHS; fire will purify the gold, silver and precious stones
7. **The sovereignty of God:** Whatever God does in His sovereignty we do not have to believe for, He still will do it; Whether you believe it or not it will come to pass
8. Almost everything in end times involves the sovereignty of God, including the rapture
9. The office in which each person stands is part of God's sovereignty; God has placed us in the body of Christ as it has pleased Him; He never asked what we would like to be
- a. (**I Corinthians 12:18 S6**) each of us has a part to play in the Body of Christ, the part we play is chosen by the Lord; (**Jeremiah 1:5 S7**) the Lord decided what Jeremiah would do before he was born – He did that for us as well; (**Romans 1:1 S8**) Paul was called to be an apostle, he had to choose to do the work of an apostle and separate himself for it
10. If you do not know what the Lord has called you to do, get involved in church, as you show yourself faithful, the Lord will direct you
11. Gold, silver and precious stones are the reward for doing what the Lord has called you to do faithfully and with a good attitude
12. Wood, hay and stubble – ministering with a bad attitude, seeking your glory and not the Lord's; ministering out of an obligation; simply not doing what you were created to do