

Rewards for Service

Seminar 2026 | THE JUDGMENT OF GOD | Session 7

"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." – 1 Corinthians 3:13

1. We Will All Appear Before the Lord

- a. ALL stand before the judgment seat & give account– Rom14:7-12; 2Co5:9-11
- b. Paul speaks of "that day" often, never in fear: work manifest, praise of God, a crown–1Co3:13; 4:5; 2Ti4:8; 1Th5:23
- c. Yes, us saved by grace: judged of no man but the Mediator, our Head – 1Co4:3-4; 1Ti2:5; Ep1:22-23
- d. Not the nations or great white throne – prophecy's timeline; for us less WHEN (future), more WHAT
- e. Grace (Ro5:1; Ep2:8-9) vs judgment (2Co5:10; 1Co3:15): interpret hard by easy, divide what's judged
- f. NOT for sin (Christ made sin, you died w/ him, no double jeopardy), identity, or righteousness – 2Co5:21
- g. Why judge? Consequences remain; wrongs righted; feeling right≠being right; God's building is important
- h. Judgment of RESPONSIBILITY: bought w/price – "you're mine; what did you do?"–1Cor6:20; 4:2; Eph2:10

2. The Judgment Seat Explained – 1 Cor 3:9-15

- v9 – we're the workers; people = husbandry & building: built in number & strength – 1Tim2:4; Eph4:16
- v10 – "take heed HOW he buildeth": building wrongly is possible, or why the warning?
- v11 – foundation: Jesus Christ as Paul laid him – by the mystery, not prophecy – 1Cor2:2,7; Rom16:25
- v12 – material, NOT rewards: gold = faithfulness; silver = purity; stones = honor; wood/hay/stubble = vanity
- v13-14– fire tries the SORT (not amount/how sincere); the work, not you; enduring=edify by Paul's pattern
- v15–loss, yet saved: wrong blueprint/doctrine, sloppy work–never of soul/position, but what could've been
- g. 2Cor9:6|Why it matters: how to minister, serve, obey now–study not to BE right but BUILD right–2Ti2:15

3. Gifts vs Reward

- a. Salvation & every blessing=GIFT, all Christ's work. Reward=given for work– Rom3:24; Eph2:8; Rom4:4
- b. 2 errors: reward = eternal life (denies grace); no judgment (denies what grace does).

- c. "Not by works" is a good plan for salvation, but a bad ministry plan
- c. Not serfs, a planet, jewelry, a gold hat, seats near Jesus – gold & silver = material, not prize.
What is?
 - i. Things we wait for: glory, inheritance, redemption of body—Christ's work=freely given—Ro5:2; 8:23
 - ii. Things we rejoice in: "my joy & crown" = people; what you rejoice in now vanishes or magnifies
 - iii. Abiding work by grace – the only thing you can take with you=souls saved & saints edified – 1Ti6:7
- d. For service done willingly – heart motive, not the task; the unwilling still account – 1Co9:16-18
- e. RIGHTEOUS for God to reward the faithful; reap if we faint not. Reward or loss, all grace – 2Th1:6; Ga6:9

4. What Sort of Work Is Rewarded?

- a. FAITHFUL to God's will (gold) – faithfulness = success, not numbers, nickels, notoriety – 1Co4:2; 2Ti2:2
- b. Word kept PURE (silver): not corrupted, not deceitful; sound words – 2Co2:17; 4:2; 2Ti1:13
- c. INTEGRITY/HONOR (stones): honest; sincere; approved ministers; no compromise—2Co8:21; 6:3-7
- d. No judgment for believers → why Paul's instruction in righteousness? If nothing lasts, life is vanity
- e. Service rewarded: walking in wisdom (Ep5:15); faithfulness (1Co15:58); reasonable service (Ro12:1); edifying the Body (Ep4:16); spiritual children (1Co4:15); redeeming the time (Ep5:16)
- f. Rewards = PEOPLE. A crown is honor, not a gold hat; the faithful, pure & true Paul's glory & joy – 2Co1:14; 1Th2:19
- g. Good side of judgment: God reveals right work you never saw bear fruit – all "not I, but grace"; greater still: people in the Body, grown strong by Christ in you – 1Co15:10; Ep3:21