

What the Future Holds– Biblical Prophecy

Lesson 3: The Judgment Seat of Christ

There are a number of questions that need to be addressed in relation to this judgment.

I. **When will this judgment occur?** Though not specifically stated, this judgment will occur after the Rapture of church age believers are in heaven with Christ while the tribulation is happening on the earth—*Revelation 4:4, 10; 19:8*.

II. **Where will this judgment occur?** This judgment will occur before Christ's judgment seat (Greek: bema) in heaven—*2 Corinthians 5:9–10*.

III. **Who will this judgment involve?** This judgment will be for Christians (believers from the day of Pentecost up to the Rapture) who have laid the foundation of Christ in their lives—*1 Corinthians 3:10–12*.

IV. **What will be the nature of this judgment?** This judgment will be to examine the believer's works to determine their value or worthlessness. This is not a judgment that determines one's salvation—*1 Corinthians 3:10–15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; John 10:28*.

V. **What will be the outcome of this judgment?** The outcome of this judgment will be that a believer will receive or forfeit rewards which was a key motivation of Paul to run the race of faith so as not to be disqualified from his rewards—*1 Corinthians 3:10–15; 9:24–27; 2 Corinthians 5:9–10; 2 John 8*.

VI. **What will be the criteria for this judgment?** We will be rewarded for our deeds (works) which are in line with Biblical truth, emerge from our deepest desire to honor the Lord with our lives, that flow out of our dependence on Christ, that are empowered by our abiding relationship with Christ—*1 Corinthians 3:13; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 2:23; 1 Corinthians 4:5; John 15:4–5*.

VII. What will be the nature of these rewards? These rewards will include praise from Christ as well as rewards and the opportunity to rule and reign with Him as we have stored up treasures in heaven—*Matthew 25:21; 1 Peter 1:6–7; 2 Peter 2:10–11; Luke 22:28–30; 1 Peter 1:6–7; 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 1 Peter 5:1–4; 2 Timothy 4:6–8.*

VIII. What will be the conditions for great rewards? The conditions of great rewards lies in the believer's faithfulness with investing his or her life on this earth for His glory and His purposes with motivation to please Him, faithfulness in our suffering, and faithfulness with our resources—*Luke 19:11–27; Mark 10:43–44; 2 Thessalonians 1:4–5; Matthew 6:1–4; 1 Timothy 6:17–19.*

IX. What should be our response to the future prospect of appearing before the judgment seat of Christ? We should trust the Lord for the resources to “graduate” from this life with highest honors because we love Him and want to honor Him at His coming—*1 John 2:28–3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:9–10; Luke 19:16–17.*