

January 21, 2018 **WHO GETS THE GLORY?**

### **1Corinthians 3**

*(Communion Table: pitcher, hammer, vacuum)*

*How many of you have heard of God's "Great White Throne" Judgment? How many know about the Judgment Seat of Christ?*

Some scholars believe these are 2 different events while others say that it is one event with two parts. But most will agree that, whether one or two events, these judgments of God deal with different groups concerning different issues:

**1) The Great White Throne**: the first judgment of God is about salvation in Christ. Believers will be separated from Unbelievers and God will consign each to eternal life or eternal death, respectively. The basis of this judgment is who you are, your identity. ***Justification = sinner or saint by faith in Christ***

**2) The Judgment Seat of Christ** involves only Believers and issues rewards for utilizing the gifts & resources God gives to enhance the growth & effect of Christ's church on earth. **The basis of judgment is the quality of your works: did you trust the Spirit or self to produce "God-good, eternal works? Was Faith in Christ your mode of operation or did you operate independently from Him? Sanctification = trusting Christ to live His life thru you in this world!**

Paul's third chapter is a study in flesh vs. Spirit, human vs. divine, and temporal vs. eternal. He identifies their spiritual immaturity – "fleshliness" – by the fact that there were factions in the church following different Christian leaders. Influenced by the philosophical environment of the day, Corinthians were actually following men, not Christ! They had begun trading the pursuit of the spiritual, divine & eternal for the fleshly, human and temporal. Jealousy/strife in the church were the evidences! They weren't operating thru faith in Christ; no God-good works

### **1Corinthians 3:1-7 (NIV)**

***Don't follow leaders! Follow them only as they follow Christ!***

***Rewards for Believers revealed at the Judgment Seat of Christ!***

Now Paul turns his attention to the rewards to be received by Believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ! As we'll discover,

these rewards are given to Christians as "vessels" of God who permitted Him to do thru them what only He could: producing God-good works that are worthy of His eternal praise, *not ours!*

### **1Corinthians 3:8-15 (NIV)**

**8-9)** *What are Apollos, Paul & Peter? Servants & Coworkers!*  
**10-13)** Christ is the only foundation for the church: only what is built upon Him will stand eternally; and only what is built by faith uses the divine, eternal materials of the Spirit:

**-gold, silver, jewels = of God: eternal & fireproof!**

**-wood, hay, straw = of man: temporal & flammable!**

*Paul's idea here is that trying to build up the church/saints of God must be done with God-quality materials: divine, eternal & of the Spirit! God's kingdom cannot be built up using worldly materials that are human, temporal & of the flesh! Only Church leaders & members who are willing to permit the Spirit God placed within us to do His work by His power according to His plan, will be vessels thru whom God produces rewarded works!*

### **ILLUS. Pg 276, first paragraph of WGWCAC**

**14,15)** Christian builders (*and this includes all of us*) will be rewarded for allowing the Spirit to produce thru us God-good, God-glorifying works. **God gets the glory; we get the reward!** *On the other hand, whatever we build with our best, human efforts & for our own glory will burn in God's fire of Re-creation, resulting in loss of potential reward – but not punishment!*

*Remember Ishmael: God only recognizes His work!*

***"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!"*** There will be no punishment for your attempts to do good works ***"FOR"*** God; but neither will there be rewards! *Even Jesus said, "I can do nothing on My own!"*

*(Vessels on table)* Like us, none of these vessels on their own can do what they were created for; they must have an operator! In the same way, God wants to produce glorious works thru us!

### **INVITATION TO RESPOND PERSONALLY:**

- 1) Prepared for God's judgment about your faith in Christ?
- 2) Will you cooperate by letting God "operate" thru you?
- 3) Will you glorify Him for the good works He does thru you?

## WORSHIP IN MEDITATION: Daniel 2

Daniel is an exiled Jew in Babylon. He is counted among the wise men of the King's service whose lives are threatened because none of them can interpret his distressing dream: **17) Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 18) He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19) During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven...**

Daniel & his friends act like they believe what we talked about last week: "Ask God for the guidance you need in your circumstances... and EXPECT His response, word, nudge, insight"

The next day, before the King began the executions, Daniel met with him. **26) The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), "Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?" 27) Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, 28) but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. 30) As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.**

Today, God wants you and me, like Daniel, to give credit to Him for the guidance He gives us. It's just too easy to "skip this step of credit-giving" among friends, co-workers, bosses & family – especially with worldly pressure to be the best! All the thoughts you have are NOT your own; some come directly from God. We must learn to distinguish His thoughts, to follow His lead, to allow Him to work thru us as His vessels, to His glory! **46) Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. 47) The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery."**

Sermon in a Sentence: WHO GETS THE GLORY?

JUDGMENTS OF GOD/CHRIST: Even in context, it is still difficult to determine whether The Great White Throne and The Judgment Seat of Christ are the same or 2 different events! Nevertheless, we can all be certain that the sin of unbelief will be judged by God: both in those Unsaved & in Saints who live from their own efforts rather than trusting Christ in them! There is one essential difference, however: Believers will not be judged or punished; only rewards are at stake for us!

**2Cor 5:10** – Christ's judges man's (and Christians') deeds in the body, whether good or bad

**Rom 14:12** – each person (and Christian) will give an account before the judgment seat

**John 3:16-21** = judged already for unbelief; of darkness or light

**Eph 6:8** – Christians – render service as unto the Lord & receive back from Him (rewards)

**Matt 25:31-46** = sheep and goats parable

**Rom 2:16** – Day when God judges secrets of all (motives?)

**Rev 20:11-15** = Great White Throne judgment of the dead

**WGCKAC, Dr. Bill Gilham, Pg 276:** You and I are to bring honor to God, to allow Him to enhance His reputation through us on earth. He calls this "glorifying His name." The *only* provision for our accomplishing this is to *"offer ourselves as living sacrifices"* to Christ to let Him express His life through us to do his will on earth (**Rom 6:13; 12:1; 15:18**). No one teaches Sunday school *for* Him, preaches *for* Him, goes to missions *for* Him, rears children *for* Him, is kind to a spouse *for* Him, loads the dishwasher *for* Him, mows the lawn *for* Him, or is courteous at the four way stop *for* Him. Though the motive may *seem* admirable, the work is unacceptable: it will burn in the Refiner's fire as **"wood, hay, and stubble"** because it's the product of independent human effort – self! God's method is that we trust the Spirit to accomplish the same, identical things through us, by faith. In this manner, we showcase God's worthiness to mankind, *not ours!*

