

## THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Beloved of the Lord:

Have you ever seriously thought about the VASTNESS of final judgment? It staggers the imagination to consider this tremendous task to judge the whole human family! Only God Who is ALL-wise, ALL-powerful, ALL-knowing, is competent to be "the Judge of all", see Gen. 18:25 - Heb. 12:23. Let us consider the Scriptures concerning it.

1 - CHRIST IS THE APPOINTED JUDGE - John 5:22-29; Acts 17:31; 2 Tim. 4:1. He has a two-fold competency: (a) HIS DEITY - having the powers of life and death, for He "the Son quickeneth whom He will" - John 5:21. Also, "the Father hath committed ALL judgment unto the Son" - John 5:22. (b) HIS MANHOOD - qualifies Him, "because He is the Son of Man" - John 5:27. His limitless ability is so ordained, no man can criticize His judgment on the ground that He lacks human experience!

There are few future judgments; all differ as to time, place, subjects, etc., but for our purpose we consider the one that is for believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. It is called -

2 - THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST -

- a - THE TIME - When the Lord comes for us - 1 Cor. 4:5 - the earliest moment for our appraisal at His coming - Rev. 22:12. Remember the office of Judge is His, not ours - Rom. 14:12.
- b - THE SCOPE - It includes ALL believers at one time before Him - Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10. It is also of an individual character - see Gal. 6:5; 1 Cor. 3:13; Rom. 14:12. But remember our salvation is not involved for this we have already settled on earth - John 5:24; John 3:36; John 3:16 etc. When before Him, we shall possess glorified bodies, raised or changed at His coming - Rom. 8:23; Phil. 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:15-17.
- c - THE PURPOSE of this judgment is, to appraise the life work of all His servants in a two-fold way -
  - 1 - APPRAISAL OF SERVICE - Read 1 Cor. 3:10-15 and note verses 10, 13 and 15. Four times it refers to "each man's work". Our service will be revealed as to "what sort it is". This clearly indicates it is a qualitative test of the life and service of each believer, revealing substantial material or worthless material - note v. 12 - to remain for reward or to be burned - v. 14, 15.
  - 2 - APPRAISAL OF CHARACTER - "WE must all appear (manifested) at the judgment seat of Christ" - etc., 2 Cor. 5:10. The character of each is to be revealed, what he or she really is in His sight on earth. Character determines conduct and conduct molds character each day, either for good or bad. Our real self is only known perfectly by God - Heb. 4:13; Psa. 139:1-4 and at His judgment seat Christ will reveal my true personality and character. We may show an artificial self toward others, what I wish them to think of me! Or there is a supposed self, what I think I am! But when before Him, I shall learn how "good" or "bad" was my character and conduct.
- d - THE RESULT of the judgment. "Crowns" for reward are mentioned in the N.T. - but let us simplify the eternal result for each one. Did not Peter write - "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" - 2 Pet. 1:11. Beloved, we are to share the administration and the glory of His eternal Kingdom! Our portion of that glory, small or great, will be the result of the Judgment Seat of Christ! Note that grief, shame and loss can be experienced also - 1 Cor. 3:15; 1 John 2:18; 2 John 8; Rev. 3:11.

Conclusion: "What is my reward THEN?" - 1 Cor. 9:18 - when my service and character is revealed! Let us "look to ourselves" and "that we receive a full reward" - 2 John 8.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

