

**Intro:** For the past couple of weeks the news has been bringing us information on the Olympic trials...both good and bad! One hot topic has been athletes who win their events...or win a spot on the Olympic team. Back in the day, WAAAAAAY back in the day, when an Olympic athlete competed in the Greek games and won, they received a "crown" or a wreath of olive leaves that they wore as a sign of victory, honor and overcoming. Those crowns were given to the winners by a judge of the games sitting on raised platform...called the judgment seat: Greek: "Bema"

In 2Cor 5:9-10 Paul uses that language, those words, for Judgment Seat and Crown, or wreath, and he applies them to you and I, and every follower of Jesus Christ as having our actions in this life...both good and bad judged by Christ.

This morning I want to continue our study of "Not My Home" by looking at what happens to us after we are caught up by Christ at the Rapture. When that happens, on Earth it initiates the Great Tribulation, or time of great troubles...but what about us? What is going on with US during that time frame. We know we receive a new body, a glorified body. We talked about that last week. But that isn't all that happens. At that time...we are giving account for our life! Look with me at what the bible has to say about how we are going to be judged by God.

2 Cor 5:9-10

1 Cor 3:8-15

### 1. The Time and Place Of The When The Judgement Seat Of Christ!

2 Cor 5:9-10

First thing I want to call to your attention is what is being judged here. There are TWO different judgements in bible One is for believers...the other is for unbelievers.

- **Bema Seat:** The judgment of NT believers in Jesus Christ concerning their works. NOT about Salvation The Bema seat has nothing to do with salvation. For you and I that issue is settled. The Bema Seat is a judgment of REWARDS...not a Judgment of SALVATION. During the Tribulation (Diagram) And In heaven
- **Great White Throne Judgment:** Judgment of everyone that is not a NT Believer or OT faithful follower of God. This IS a judgment of Salvation, and all those that do not have a relationship with Christ go here. This is the final judgment, and those not having that relationship are separated from God forever. End of Millennium

If you know Jesus as Lord and Savior, you are headed to the Bema seat. If not, you are destined for the Great White Throne Judgment and eternal separation from the Father.

### 2. How Our Works Are Judged.

1Cor 3:5-15

The bible is very clear about what God is going to judge us on! In 1 Cor Paul gives us the most complete understanding of what is going to take place, and as he does that we see the criteria that is used to evaluate our work. There are 4 very clear criteria Paul refers to as he describes to us the judgment we will undergo.

- **Obedience Of Work:** Have I fulfilled the purpose(s) God put me here on this earth to accomplish? Have I been walking in partnership and relationship with Him, or have I taken the life He gave me...used it for myself?  
Vs 5: *The Lord has assigned you your task:* Are you fulfilling that? Using Your Gift? Engaged in Service?

*~We often think of Purpose as some big, overwhelming "must do"...don't know it...seek it...frustrated*

*~I want to encourage you to think in terms of small acts of everyday obedience.*

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| >Am I the PARENT calls me to be: That's purpose!   | Raise in nurture and admonition of Lord?      |
| >Am I the CHILD God calls me to be?                | Honor Father and Mother?                      |
| >Am I the employee, employer?                      | Do all to the Glory of God...Almighty Dollar? |
| >Am I the friend...neighbor...support to stranger? | Parable of Good Samaritan                     |

- **Quality of Work:** Have I offered God my BEST? Or am I giving Him whatever is left over after everyone and everything that is important to ME is first taken care of! Vs 10-15
  - >**Quality:** Lit = "Of what sort" *Indestructible...or Destructible! Eternal...or Temporal? Last...or Not?*
  - >**Truth:** Am I diligent to communicate spiritual truth wherever and to whomever I am with
  - >**Effort:** Am I giving my best effort...not just going through the motions
  - >**Prayer:** Teach do you prepare...and Do you Pray? Are you calling on HIS power in your service
  - >**Partner:** Are you working FOR Him...or WITH Him? Is God involved? Do you lean into Him All YOU

God is interested in your very best. He deserves that...and He expects it. He will ultimately judge us on whether or not we have offered that to Him. All too often we give God our left over time, our left over energy, our left over finances, or left over interest. He desires our first...and our best...and we are ultimately judged that way.

- **Faithfulness Of My Work:** Have I faithfully done ALL that God calls me to! 1Cor 4:1-4  
We are all servants (stewards) of all that God has given us.  

>Time	>Talents	>Treasure	>Gospel Message
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*Have I used my time for Him? Or for myself?*

*Have I used the talents He gave me, or have I buried them, not developed them or not used them*

*Have I used the finances He entrusted to my care for His kingdom the way He directed...or not*

*Have I shared the Good News of the Gospel...or Have I kept it to myself?*

Listen...you are not called to success...you are not called to fame...You are not called to results. All those things you leave in the hand of God. You cannot control them. BUT...you can control Faithfulness. YOU determine if you are going to be trustworthy and use what God put in your hands. And THAT is what we are judged upon!

We are all working toward the same thing. Look at what Paul says in vs 5 “At that time each will receive his praise” Mt 25:21 “Well done good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in a few things....Make you ruler over many!”

- **Motive Of My Work:** Why do I do...what I do? 1 Cor 4:5

**Motive:** Lit = *the inner purpose; the inner counsel; the inner rationale*

There is always at least one of four reasons we are serving

>Serving God: *Honor Him, Praise Him, Bring Glory to Him, Act of thankfulness*

>Serving Self: *Gather fame, power, comfort, acclaim, Honor...for ourselves!*

>Serving Others: *To elevate them, to get their approval, To gain their regard,*

>Serving Convenience: *Taking the path of least resistance, doing what comes easily*

Each of us has to determine...WHY do I do what I do? Who am I serving? Who am I honoring, Who am I praising?

It is possible to do the right thing...for the wrong reason...and have NO reward at all...totally destroyed at Judgment

### **3. The Result Of Judgment: Rewards**

1 Cor 3:14-15

The bible has a number of things that it talks about as “rewards” for faithful service. There are a couple of them listed here in Corinthians.

Look at WHAT the Rewards Are

- Praise from God: 4:6 Each will receive their praise from God “Well Done” (No silence!)
- Rewards fm Works that Last: 3:14-15 Our works are tested by fire (Probably referencing purity of His gaze)  
How awful if I get in...but have NO reward...All lost Emptyhanded
- Crowns: 5 of them listed in the bible: (Next week)

Pay attention to what we DO With the Rewards!

- We DON'T walk around for eternity proud of what we have...elevated over others....
- What we DO...Is present our crowns...our rewards...our works...to the One who made it all possible  
To the One that saved us, Empowered Us, Blessed Us, Walked with us, Kept us....  
Rev 4:9-11 The Elders (Representative of NT Believers) Take their Crowns...cast them at the feet of Jesus!  
  - We join in the worship of God with the Angels...All the redeemed
  - As we proclaim His praise we take our crowns and we cast them at His feet!
  - He was the One who made it all possible...
  - A very tangible way of me expressing thanksgiving, gratitude, joy for all He has done for me...

Now listen to me...There is NOTHING more frightening to me...in all of my life than the thought that when everyone is casting their crowns at the feet of the One that died on the cross for ME that I would stand there emptyhanded...That there would be NOTHING that withstood the purity of His gaze...that I could return in thanksgiving!

No act of obedience...No all out Effort on His Behalf...No Faithfulness to the task when it got hard, No pure motive  
The idea that I would have WASTED this life and the opportunity to prepare to say thank you such that I had NOTHING...Terrifies me! I don't serve because I am afraid of Him...But I REFUSE to be emptyhanded!  
It all starts with the right foundation: Vs 11: A personal relationship with Jesus...If don't have that: TODAY is the DAY? Come...Accept Him as Lord and Savior...Start Preparing for the Day you meet Him face to face.