

## *Discipleship Lesson 18*

# **The Judgment Seat**

*Key Memory Verse:*

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

*2 Corinthians 5:10*



# Discipleship Lesson 18

## The Judgment Seat

As you study this lesson you will understand why the following statements are **not true**.

1. God will judge Christians for their sin.
2. Christians will be judged for what they have done without regard for their motives.
3. Our rewards and punishments are all received in this life.

### **Is There a Judgment Day for Christians? What Will I Be Accountable for on Judgment Day?**

When things become difficult in your Christian life and you are tempted to give up, what do you do? What are the things that motivate you to keep going when you are exhausted emotionally and physically? When you have been hurt and disappointed by other Christians, what keeps you running the Christian race with joy when a lot of Christians become discouraged and quit?

This lesson will answer those questions and help you see the tremendous rewards God has stored up for those who endure the hardships and continue to serve Him faithfully.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this lesson is to keep your focus on eternal matters by bringing you to an understanding of your final accountability to the Lord Jesus Christ as His servant.

## I. Two Key Motives for Serving the Lord

Paul faced more hardships than most of us can imagine in his life of service (2 Corinthians 11:23–28). Yet Paul did not quit or become bitter. The same could be said of Jesus. What kept Jesus running the race with joy? What was the joy set before him? See Hebrews 12:2.

- A. What is the first key motive for serving the Lord according to 2 Corinthians 5:14–15?

Your love for Jesus is measured by your obedience to His Word, not simply by feelings you have (John 14:21).

There is no stronger motive in our life than love for causing people to stand and fight for what is right. So without a doubt, Paul's love for Christ kept him going.

- B. What is the second key motive for serving the Lord? See 2 Corinthians 5:9–11a.

The New Testament makes it clear that as Christians we will be held accountable for our lives. What are some of the areas in which God will hold us accountable?

1. Matthew 18:23–35 (key verse: 35)
  2. Matthew 25:19–27 (key verse: 27)
  3. Matthew 25:31–40 (key verse: 40)
- C. It is important for us to practice the principle of accountability with our children, our friends, and our coworkers. One sign of spiritual maturity is the willingness to be held to godly standards. **The truth is, most of us do what is inspected more than what is expected in life.**
- D. Jesus provides all of the resources through His Word for us to continue the Christian race He has set before us. It should be your goal to say what Paul did in 2 Timothy 4:7–8.

How did Paul describe the Christian life in verse 7?



## Notes and Questions:

## II. What Is the “Judgment Seat of Christ”?

A. Every person will stand before God at one of two judgments.

1. If a person is not a Christian, what is that judgment called? See Revelation 20:11–15.

Every lost person will be judged for his or her sins and rejection of Jesus Christ (Revelation 21:8, 27).

2. If you are a Christian, what is that judgment called? See 2 Corinthians 5:10.

3. Will Christians be judged for their sins at this judgment? See Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

B. What exactly will Christians be judged for at the judgment seat of Christ? See 1 Corinthians 3:13–15.

1. What do you think 1 Corinthians 3:15 means? Read the context, verses 8–15.

2. 1 Corinthians 3:13–14 talks about the fire that will test each of our works. What is God looking for behind our works? See 1 Thessalonians 2:4.

### III. What Are the Negative Consequences of This Judgment?

- A. Christians should understand that God will hold us accountable for all that He has given us (2 Corinthians 5:8–10). If you are not a good steward of your time, talent, and treasures, there will be negative consequences.

For example, some Christians will:

1. Be \_\_\_\_\_ because they were not living for the Lord Jesus Christ at His appearing (1 John 2:28).
  2. Suffer \_\_\_\_\_ because their works were temporal and not eternal (1 Corinthians 3:15).
  3. Suffer \_\_\_\_\_ of rewards (1 Corinthians 3:15; 2 John 8).
- B. It is important to remember that a Christian cannot lose his salvation. He can only lose rewards (1 Corinthians 3:14–15), which God wants to give. The rewards of heaven will far outweigh any temporal rewards on this earth. What should we do according to Matthew 6:19–21?

Matthew 6:21 tells us that our heart (our passion and interest) follows what?

### IV. What Rewards Are Obtainable?

The rewards obtainable at the judgment seat of Christ can be seen by studying the five crowns in the New Testament. They are:

- A. The crown of \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Timothy 4:8), given to those who love the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible closes with “Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20). Paul’s desire was to be with the Lord (Philippians 1:23–24).

- B. The crown of \_\_\_\_\_ (Revelation 2:10), the martyr’s crown.

Also seen in James 1:12 as given to those who endure temptation.

### Notes and Questions:



## Notes and Questions:

- C. An \_\_\_\_\_ crown (1 Corinthians 9:25), given for temperance or moderation.
1. The context of 1 Corinthians 9:18–27 deals with temperance or moderation in all matters (physical, spiritual, and mental) in order to be a positive testimony to others; however, we are not to practice moderation in areas clearly defined for us. For instance, we are not to be moderately honest, moderately holy, or moderately loving!
  2. This is balanced by remembering that some have infirmities for the purpose of glorifying God. Paul is a great example (2 Corinthians 12:7–10).
- D. The crown of \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thessalonians 2:19), also known as the soul-winner's crown.
1. Given to those who lead people to Jesus Christ (Philippians 4:1).
  2. Called the crown of rejoicing, because it produces rejoicing in heaven when someone gets saved (Luke 15:7).
- E. The crown of \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Peter 5:4), also known as the shepherd's crown.
1. Given to those who pastor or shepherd people in the Word of God.
  2. The New Testament is very clear that all saved people, not just pastors, are to be actively teaching someone the Word of God; this is the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11–16).
  3. This requires great wisdom, which can only be obtained through the Word of God (Proverbs 4:7–9).

## V. Why Should I Think about the Judgment Seat of Christ?

- A. Focusing on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ is one of the most practical doctrines for everyday living in the Bible. List some character qualities from the following verses that are produced by focusing on the return of Christ.

1. Philippians 1:6

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2. 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

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3. 1 Thessalonians 2:19–20

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4. 1 Thessalonians 3:13

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5. 2 Timothy 4:1–8 Diligence in Service. What types of service?

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6. Titus 2:11–14

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7. James 5:7–8

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- B. When faced with difficulties, trials, and temptations, we are able to continue serving the Lord, knowing we are someday going on to better things. What a glorious day that will be! The rewards we receive on earth are all temporal and will perish, but the rewards we receive at the judgment seat of Christ are eternal and will never perish (2 Corinthians 4:16–18, 5:4; Hebrews 6:9–12).
- C. By remembering our accountability at the judgment seat of Christ, we will develop a desire to please God rather than men. Developing this attitude is the surest way to handle criticism and opposition (2 Corinthians 5:6–10). In Galatians 1:6–10 and 2:11–14 Paul demonstrates that he was principle driven, not people driven.

## Notes and Questions



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## VI. Practical Application

- A. Knowing you will stand before Jesus one day and give an account of your Christian life, what two specific areas of your life do you need to change the most? Example: attitudes, action, ministry service, giving, family priorities, witnessing, etc.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

- B. If you could accomplish any two things for God's kingdom before you die, what would they be? Dream Big!

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

- C. Name two important truths or principles that stood out to you from this lesson.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_