

2 CORINTHIANS LESSON 8

Chapter 5:9-11, The Judgment Seat of Christ

19 June 2023

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.”

- This judgment cannot be to determine whether Christians will go to heaven.
 - Chapter 4 and chapter 5:1-8 established the fact that these are people who are going to heaven as soon as they die; absent from the body, present with the Lord (5:6).
- This judgment cannot be to determine if there are any remaining sins that need to be paid for.
 - Jesus paid for them all on the cross.
- This judgment will not determine attainment or loss of salvation. We have eternal life now.
- This judgment will not determine whether we will be punished for sins.
 - Jesus was punished for our sins.

Vs 9 **“⁹ Wherefore we labour...**” this labor is not for salvation. Salvation is not by works (Eph. 2:8-9).

“...that, whether present or absent...” (Alive or dead, in the body or out of the body, with the Lord or absent from the Lord physically).

“...we may be accepted of him.” We aim to please the Lord with our labors now and forever. This will show the Lord that we are thankful for the salvation He purchased for us.

- At the Judgment Seat, there will be some works that are acceptable, and some that are not. Acceptable works will be rewarded.

Vs 10 **“For we (Saints, the Church) must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.”**

- Jesus Christ is the Judge. He is also our Advocate (1 John 2:1). He is the One who makes intercession for us (Rom. 8:34). He is the One that loved me and gave Himself for me (Gal. 2:20).

THE PURPOSE OF THIS JUDGMENT: **“...that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.”**

1 Cor 3:10-15 speaks of the works that we have done in our body. Some are good (gold, silver, precious stones). Some works are not so good (wood, hay, stubble). The Lord will hand us our works at the Judgment Seat. Those works will be tested in fire (vs 13).

- Works are tried by fire, not men and women.
- If any man’s work abide...he shall receive a reward (vs 14). This is something in addition to the salvation that we already have.
- The works that are burned are counted as a loss, but it is not the loss of salvation (vs 15).
- Nobody loses salvation, or gets beaten, burned, or punished at this judgment (Rom. 8:1).
- These are rewards that you’ll be glad to receive. Don’t pretend that you don’t need them. Get as many as you can. They’re worth working for.

Romans 14:7-12 says we are the Lord’s. We don’t have to worry about ever not belonging to the Lord. But at the Judgment Seat of Christ every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

- This accounting is not to see if you’re saved or not. It is to see how you served the Lord.
- Notice that you will give an account of yourself, not other people. Instead of judging whether they’re doing enough, judge yourself. Are you doing anything for the Lord?
- I wonder, have I done enough for Jesus? Will He say, *“Well done, thou good and faithful servant?”*