

# Behold

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- Cheering crowd, everyone looking up, something shiny
- Great hit in little league, firstborn, Bride

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- “Woah!” “Who’s that?” “That’s amazing!”
- Cheering crowd, everyone looking up, something shiny
- Great hit in little league, firstborn, Bride
- What happens after the first year marriage?
- Newness wears off, reality sets in, same great person
- Get beyond the “Behold” moments and more into “Life” moments

# Behold – The Lamb of God

- “The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him and said, ‘**Behold, the Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!’” (Joh 1:29)
- “There will no longer be any curse, and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And there will no longer be any night, and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun because the Lord God will illuminate them, and they will reign **forever and ever.**” (Rev 22:3-5)

# Behold – The Lamb of God

- “For now, we see in a mirror dimly but then face to face; now, I know in part; but then, *I will know fully*, just as I also have been fully known.” (1Co 13:12)

# Give an Account of Ourselves to Jesus

Scott Koppel

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# Judgement

- “The one who believes in Him is not judged; the one who does not believe has been judged already because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” (Joh 3:18)
- “Dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus, these people will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.” (2Th 1:8-9)

# Judgement Seats

- Great White Throne (Rev 20:11-15)
  - Unbelievers
  - Internal State – What they believed (starts with word and deed)
  - Holiness – “Be Holy”
- Judgement Seat of Christ (2Co 5:10)
  - Believers
  - External State – What we did in Jesus
  - Godliness – Individuals and Churches



# Judgement Seat of Christ

- Judge
- Location
- Purpose
- Timing
- Participants
- Rewards
- Preparation

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Judge

- “For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son.” (Joh 5:22)
- According to this verse, who is the Judge?

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Judge

- “I [*Paul*] have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith; in the future, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.” (2Ti 4:7)
- According to this verse, who acknowledged Jesus as the Judge?

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Judge

- “And He ordered us [*the apostles*] to preach to the people and to testify solemnly that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.” (Act 10:42)
- According to this verse, who acknowledged Jesus as the Judge?

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Judge

- Who judges Christians?
- If Jesus, the apostles, and Paul said that Jesus is our Judge and . . .
- If we are to “continually devote ourselves to the apostles teaching” (Act 2:42) . . .
- Then what must we conclude?

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Judge

- Who judges Christians?
- If Jesus, the apostles, and Paul said that Jesus is our Judge and . . .
- If we are to “continually devote ourselves to the apostles teaching” (Act 2:42) . . .
- Then what must we conclude? *Jesus is our Judge.*

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Location

- Where will we be judged?
- “For we must all appear before the **judgment seat of Christ** so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad” (2Co 5:10)

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Purpose

- Why are we judged?
- “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad” (2Co 5:10)



# Judgement Seats

- Great White Throne (Rev 20:11-15)
  - “For the wages of sin is death.” (Rom 6:23)
- Judgement Seat of Christ (2Co 5:10)
  - “Each one may receive compensation for his deeds.”

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Timing

- When will we receive our rewards?
- “Behold, I am coming quickly, and *My reward is with Me*, to reward each one as his work deserves.” (Rev 22:12)

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Timing

- When will we be with Jesus?
- “Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight—but we are of good courage and prefer rather **to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.**” (2Co 5:6-8)

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Timing

- If we're not dead, when will we be with Jesus?
- “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then, we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds **to meet the Lord in the air**; and so we will always be with the Lord.” (1Th 4:16-17)

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Timing

- When will Jesus judge us?
- So if Jesus's rewards are with Him and . . .
- We are not with him because He has not raptured us yet and . . .
- We're not dead . . .
- Then what can we speculate about when Jesus will judge us?

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Timing

- When will Jesus judge us?
- So if Jesus's rewards are with Him and . . .
- We are not with him because He has not raptured us yet and . . .
- We're not dead . . .
- Then what can we speculate about when Jesus will judge us?  
*The Judgement Seat of Christ comes after the Rapture.*

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Timing

- Here are some more verses that help us establish this.
- “Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones, I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.” (Rev 4:4)
- “It was given to her [the bride] to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” (Rev 19:8)

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Timing

- Here are some more verses that help us establish this.
- “For it is time for **judgment to begin with the household of God**; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?” (1Pe 4:17)
- “The dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and **they were judged**.” (Rev 20:12b-13b)



# Judgement Seat of Christ – Participants

- Who participates at the Judgment Seat of Christ?
- “For *we must all appear* before the judgment seat of Christ so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad”  
(2Co 5:10)

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Participants

“The New Testament is explicit that the ‘judgment (*bēma*) seat of Christ’ is exclusively for **believers**. This is made manifest in the allusion to the *bēma* seat. In the world of the New Testament, the *bēma* was a raised platform, usually mounted by steps, used to make public pronouncements and to award prizes. In the Grecian games, the umpire or referee sat on a *bēma* seat; and from that seat, he rewarded those contestants who had run so as to obtain the prize (1Co 9:24). That seat could be a judicial bench (Act 18.12), but Paul employs the term in its more prominent social sense referring to a prominent elevation from which honor of various sorts – political, athletic, civil – was **awarded or withheld** by a presiding official (2Co 5:10; Rom 14:10).”

Dr. Doug Bookman is Professor of Old/New Testament and Bible Exposition at Shepherds Theological Seminary

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Participants

- What's going to happen to believers at the Judgement Seat of Christ?
- “Each one's work will become evident, for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each one's work. If anyone's work, which he has built on it, remains, he *will receive a reward*. If anyone's work is burned up, he *will suffer loss*; but he himself will be saved yet only so as through fire.” (1Co 3:13-15)

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Participants

- Believers (*can't lose salvation but can lose reward*)
- External State – What we did in Jesus
- Godliness – Individuals and Churches

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- Believers (*can't lose salvation but can lose reward*)
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- Reasoning
  - “But the one who practices the truth comes to the Light so that his deeds will be revealed as having been performed [wrought] in God.” (Joh 3:21)
  - The deeds are revealed as godly, saying, “That’s God’s work right there.”
  - They can be revealed now or at the Great White Throne.

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Participants

- Believers (*can't lose salvation but can lose reward*)
- External State – What we did in Jesus
- Godliness – Individuals and Churches
  
- Example 1 (*Godliness*) – Individuals
  - “If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe Me, believe the works so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me and I in the Father.” (Joh 10:37-38)

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Participants

- Believers (*can't lose salvation but can lose reward*)
- External State – What we did in Jesus
- Godliness – Individuals and Churches
  
- Example 2 (*Not Godliness*) – Individuals
  - “But when Peter saw this, he replied to the people, ‘Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why are you staring at us as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk?’” (Act 3:12)

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Participants

- Believers (*can't lose salvation but can lose reward*)
- External State – What we did in Jesus
- Godliness – Individuals and Churches
  
- Example 3 (*Godliness*) – Individuals
  - “Beyond question, great is the mystery of godliness: He, who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.” (1Ti 3:16)



# Judgement Seat of Christ – Participants

- Believers (*can't lose salvation but can lose reward*)
- External State – What we did in Jesus
- Godliness – Individuals and Churches
  
- Example 4 (*Godliness*) – Individuals
  - “Rather, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily training is just slightly beneficial; but godliness is beneficial for all things since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.” (1Ti 4:7b-8)

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Participants

- Believers (*can't lose salvation but can lose reward*)
- External State – What we did in Jesus
- Godliness – Individuals and Churches
  
- Example 5 (*Not Godliness*) – Churches
  - “For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part, I believe it.” (1Co 11:18)

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Participants

- Believers (*can't lose salvation but can lose reward*)
- External State – What we did in Jesus
- Godliness – Individuals and Churches
  
- Example 6 (*Godliness*) – Churches
  - “What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit, but I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit, but I will sing with the mind also. For otherwise, if you bless God in the spirit only, how will the one who occupies the place of the outsider know to say the “Amen” at your giving of thanks since he does not understand what you are saying?” (1Co 14:15-16)

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Participants

- Believers (*can't lose salvation but can lose reward*)
- External State – What we did in Jesus
- Godliness – Individuals and Churches
  
- Example 7 (*Godliness*) – Churches
  - “What is the outcome then, brothers and sisters? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. All things are to be done for edification.” (1Co 14:26)

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Participants

- Believers (*can't lose salvation but can lose reward*)
- External State – What we did in Jesus
- Godliness – Individuals and Churches
  
- More Examples – Churches
  - How many churches in Revelation 2 and 3 did Jesus evaluate?
  - Twice He said, “I have this against you.” (Rev 2:4, 20) (*Not Godliness*)
  
- The Judgement Seat of Christ is imminent!

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Rewards

- “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Eph 2:8-9)
- Salvation is not a reward for good works.
- Salvation can not be earned.

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Rewards

- What are some important points to consider about rewards?
- “Rewards to be distributed on that day are appealed to many times as an incentive to faithful Christian living (Mat 5:12; 6:4-6; 10:41; 16:27; 1Co 3:8; Col 2:18; 3:24; Heb 11:26; 2Jo 1:8).”

Dr. Doug Bookman is Professor of Old/New Testament and Bible Exposition at Shepherds Theological Seminary

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Rewards

- What are some important points to consider about rewards?
- “The issue [about rewards] is not *competition* but *faithfulness* (1Co 4:2). Those running this race are not competing against one another; they are struggling against a common enemy determined to frustrate every attempt to run according to the rules (1Co 9:27; 2Co 4:4).”

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# Judgement Seat of Christ – Rewards

- What are some important points to consider about rewards?
- “The reward which is sought by the believer is not a bauble to be displayed in some celestial trophy case; it is a greater capacity to serve and honor God in the Kingdom to come . . . (Rev 4:10)”

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# Judgement Seat of Christ – Preparation

- How should we occupy ourselves with Judgement Seat of Christ?
- What should we be doing in light of it?
- Are we putting too much emphasis on it?

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Preparation

## First Priority (Joh 17:3)

- “Dealing out retribution to those who do not *know God* and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus, these people will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.” (2Th 1:8-9)
- We have to know something about Jesus.
- not just fact but experiential knowledge of Him
- This should be observed in you, your words, your works, your walk.

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Preparation

## First Priority (1Co 15:3)

- “Dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not *obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus*, these people will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.” (2Th 1:8-9)
- We have to know the gospel and obey it.
- We have to learn how it impacts our daily walk.
- love—truth—forgiveness—grace—substitution—reconciliation

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Preparation

## **Top Priority** (Mar 12:30-31)

- Devoted to Jesus (1Co 7:35; 2Co 11:3)
- Devoted to Each Other (Act 2:42; 1Pe 4:9-10; 1Jo 1:7; 3:23; 4:7)
  - family, work, loss of self
- Devoted to the Bible (Psa 119:105; Act 2:42; 1Ti 4:13)
- Devoted to Breaking Bread (Act 2:42; 1Co 11:24-25)
- Devoted to Prayer (Act 2:42; 6:4; 1Co 7:5)
- Devoted to Evangelism and Ministry (2Ti 4:5)
- Devoted to Good Works (Tit 3:8; 3:14; Jam 2:26)

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Preparation

## **Equipped for Every Good Work** (2Ti 3:16-17)

- Identify your calling and spiritual gifts in Jesus.
- Be equipped, meaning to finish out, skilled as a teacher (Heb 5:12).
- Be knowledgeable of who, when, where, how, and why.
- Make a list of important work to which God has called you.
- Determine what godliness looks like in each of those areas.
- Make it your ambition to become godly in these works.
- Thereby, you make yourself useful to Jesus (2Ti 2:21).

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Preparation

## Obey Your Leaders and Submit (Heb 13:17)

- Obey your leaders and submit to them—for they keep watch over your souls as those who will **give an account**—so that they may do this with joy, not groaning; for this would be unhelpful for you.
- “This probably refers primarily to the elders in the local church. These men **act as representatives of God** in the assembly. Authority has been given to them, and believers should be submissive to this authority. As undershepherds, the elders watch out for the souls of the flock . . .”

(Bill MacDonald, Believer’s Bible Commentary)

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Preparation

## Obey Your Leaders and Submit (Heb 13:17)

- Obey your leaders and submit to them—for they keep watch over your souls as those who will **give an account**—so that they may do this with joy, not groaning; for this would be unhelpful for you.
- “. . . They will have to give account to God in a coming day. They will do it either joyfully or sadly, **depending on the spiritual progress of their charges**. If they have to do it sadly, that will mean loss of reward for the saints concerned.”

(Bill MacDonald, Believer’s Bible Commentary)



# Judgement Seat of Christ – Preparation

## **Obey Your Leaders and Submit** (Heb 13:17)

- Criticizing them (Rom 14:4; Jam 4:11)
- Complaining or arguing against them (Phi 2:14)
- Holding out – “Unless” (Joh 20:25)
- Using life (balance) or exception as excuse (Luk 9:59-62)
- Exercising false humility, even as excuse (Luk 6:46)
- Being lukewarm with them (Rev 3:15-16) – **Peter**
- **Review your past elder visit and make decisions in faith.**

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Preparation

## **Get Better at It** (1Th 4:1)

- “Finally then, brothers and sisters, we request and urge you in the Lord Jesus that, as you received instruction from us as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), you **excel even more.**”
- Excel means to be better, to abound, “to press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phi 3:14)
- There are legitimate exceptions, and gray areas are hard to answer.

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Preparation

## Get Better at It (1Th 4:1)

- “Finally then, brothers and sisters, we request and urge you in the Lord Jesus that, as you received instruction from us as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), you *excel even more.*”
- You already have salvation; now, it’s time to push for godliness.
- This is message about your grind to achieve the heights of godliness.
- “I *box in such a way* as to avoid hitting air.” (1Co 9:26)

# Judgement Seat of Christ – Preparation

## **Next to Each Other** (Neh 3)

- Rebuilding the Wall in Nehemiah – “Next to Each Other”
- Bear each other’s burdens (Gal 6:2) to achieve unity (Phi 2:2)
- Burdens of the church and burdens of the individuals
- Achieved unity through hard work – not just through social time
- 3 A’s of Ministry
  - Attendance
  - Attitude
  - Action