

Final Judgment

Greg Wendschlag August 19, 2018

The Great White Throne Judgment

"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:11-14

- The earth and sky, as we know them, are gone.
- Only the wicked stand before the great white throne.
- “Books” are opened: The books of recorded deeds. – Ecc. 12:14; Rom. 14:12
- Another “book” is opened: A book of names – the Lamb’s Book of Life. – Rev. 13:8, 21:7
- Death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire, which is the second death.
- All those who did not have their names written in the book of life suffer the second death.

The Judgment Seat of Christ

"By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. ¹⁴If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames." 1 Cor. 3:10-15

"For we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."
2 Cor. 5:10 (Also Ecc. 12:14; Rom. 14:12)

Bema seat – the place where rewards are given after an athletic contest.
Punishments were also given out here: Jesus before Pontius Pilate: John 19:13

What about rewards?

"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done." Rev. 22:12

- The promise of crowns. - 1 Cor. 9:24-27
- The promise of heavenly treasure - 1 Pet 1:4
- The promise of accolades or commendations – Mt. 25:21
- The promises to overcomers - Rev. 2:7; 2:11, 17, 26.

Should reward be a motive to serve Jesus?

If we are supposed to deny ourselves and put others first, then how can we serve Jesus with the motivation of being rewarded?

The greatest reward is not the one that you receive but the reward someone else receives because of you.

- The Builders: All followers of Christ
- The Buildings: People
- The Foundation: Jesus Christ
- The Building Materials:
 - Gold, silver, costly stones – things that endure
 - Wood, hay and stubble – things that do not endure
- The Test: Everything we say or do will be tested
- The results: I will enjoy reward or suffer loss depending on my work
I will display the work others have built into me

"For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when He comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy."
1 Thess. 2:19-20

Discussion Starters for Your Groups InCommon

1. What was your mental image of what the final judgment would be like?
2. Think of a time when you were extremely proud of someone you love. Would you rather experience that joy for them or the joy of accomplishing something for yourself?
3. How might your life and personal service change knowing your reward is the work invested in another?