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The Answers to the Biggest Test of your Life, Part 1
2 Cor. 5:9-11, 14-15

God gives us some very hard tests in life. But He also gives the answers to the biggest tests of our life. Christian, the biggest test or examination of your life is coming. It's called the Judgment Seat of Christ. In the Bible, God tells us exactly what's going to be tested or judged or examined.

3 Motivations for Serving and Obeying the Lord Jesus Christ:

- 1) _____ - is the highest and purest reason for serving Him, 2 Cor. 5:14. "to be accepted of Him" means to please Him, v. 9.
- 2) Fear - Fear of _____, Heb. 12:5-6, I Cor. 11:30-32. God does not punish Christians but He does correct us. He is transforming us to become more like Christ in our words and actions.
- 3) _____ - Crowns; rewards described as gold, silver, and precious stones; Treasures in heaven, I Cor. 3.

Christians who love, serve, and obey Christ are promised rewards in heaven.

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

John 10:28

1. When is the Bema Seat of v. 10?

At the _____!

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”

Revelation 22:12

Jesus brings His reward with Him “when He comes.” When will the rapture occur? It can occur at any moment. We are told to be ready every day!

2. Who will be judged at the Bema Seat? Christians!

There is no condemnation for Christians- no judgment, Romans 8:1. Christians will never ever be judged regarding their right of entrance into heaven. We will never experience the wrath of God.

“He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

John 3:18.

3. What will we be judged for?

V. 10... “we receive the things done in our body... according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

The word “bad” means worthless. You will not receive any rewards for anything that you do that is worthless. The most worthless thing you do every day is what? SIN!

The account that we shall give is for ourselves and not for others.

What I want to know is what am I giving an account for?

A. *The General Accounting*

1) Our _____.

“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding [watching, looking], the evil and the good.”

Proverbs 15:3

If you study the teachings of Jesus Christ, you will be convinced that He taught us to live our lives in light of eternity. He tells us to think before we act. I am to remember that what I do today has both temporary and eternal consequences. I need to ask myself this question - “In heaven will I be glad I did this, or will I regret it?”

2) Our _____ (Our works).

Jesus said even a cup of cold water given in my name will not go unrewarded. “Well done my good and faithful servant” is only going to be said to those who serve Christ faithfully.

3) Our _____.

God knows why we do what we do. If we ask Him, He can purify our motives. It's so easy to do the right thing for the wrong reason. But in that day, Jesus will reveal the motives and He will get to the truth of why you and I do what we do.

B. The Specific Accounting – What will we be judged for?

- 1) If we live for the _____ of God or the pleasing of self, v. 15.

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

1 Corinthians 10:31

*“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may **please Him** who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”*

2 Timothy 2:4

“There are only two choices on the shelf: pleasing God or pleasing self!”

Ken Collier, Wilds President (ret.)

Every day I make this choice: Will I live today for the glory of God or will I live to please myself? Everything you say or do begins in your heart.

“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man...”

Matthew 15:19-20a

We are all born with evil hearts. But the moment we are saved, the Holy Spirit resides in our hearts and prompts us to have a pure heart; a holy heart, and a heart that desires to please God. If you do not have any spiritual desires... to do right, to read the Bible, to go to church, to forgive others, to give, and serve, then you need to heed Paul's warning:

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves...”

2 Corinthians 13:5

- 2) If you have _____ financially in God's plan of reaching others with the Gospel. We call this Faith Promise Missions Giving, 2 Corinthians 8-9.

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Matthew 6:19-21

If our greatest treasure is the Lord Himself, it will not be difficult to give to Him. Our love for Christ enables us to give joyfully (2 Cor. 9:7) and sacrificially (2 Cor. 8:2-3).

*"For even in Thessalonica ye sent [financially to me] once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire **fruit that may abound to your account.**"*

Philippians 4:16-17

What does this fruit look like?

People saved through our missionary outreaches. As we support missionaries, we are impacting people all over the world.

When Jesus saw the widow of Mark 12 give her two mites, He said, "Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury." How could that be? Jesus measured her financial gift on the amount of sacrifice it cost her, not the amount of the money.

3) If we have personally _____ our faith with others, v. 20.

Notice in v. 18 we have been given "the ministry of reconciliation." We are NOT judged on how many souls we lead to Christ, but we are judged on how faithful we are in praying, plowing, planting, and watering the Gospel in the hearts of others. The command of Jesus is to "GO" and share the Gospel starting at home - where you are and where you live and work and play.

It is your final exam in _____. In that day there will be hot tears of regret and shame or confidence, peace, and great joy.

"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."

1 John 2:28