

23). Those who are controlled by Him, will receive their reward.

2) Soul-winners reward (1 Thess. 2:19).

Those led to Christ by a believer will be the crown of rejoicing when he gets to heaven.

3) Righteousness reward (2 Tim. 4:8).

Here is a response for those who wait with faith for the coming of Christ. It is good to love His coming!

4) Trial-enduring reward (James 1:12; Rev. 2:10).

Those who endure patiently whatsoever God sends into their lives will get this reward. No place here for the grumbler or persistent crank about God's purposes in his life.

5) Faithful-Pastor reward (1 Pet. 5:2, 4).

This is reserved only for those in full time pastoral-teacher ministry. They are in the work out of love and not for funds!

Conclusion It's all as if God has given us a stewardship. We are trustees to God. God has checked items out to us. What are we doing with them (read context of Rom. 14:1-12). God help us to be good stewards! The key to the judgment seat is not success, but faithfulness in the discharge of responsibility! Oh, some graduate and others graduate with honor, but others still graduate with high honor. How will it be with us? Amen.

WHAT ABOUT A CHRISTIAN JUDGMENT?

2 Corinthians 5:8-11

Introduction

1. Whatever happens with a child of God is of concern to those who truly believe. What will be the experience of believers following the Rapture, therefore, is of prophetic significance. This is not theory, but genuine dogma.

2. The believer of this present age is related to a number of judgments. He is not included with any sort of judgment concerning the O. T. saints whether past or future. The believer is a unique creation of God during this present Age of Grace (having been baptized into the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13). World judgment and angel judgment is related to believers (1 Cor. 5; 6:2-4).

3. Since these judgments do not actually come for the believers, what is the testimony of Scripture in this connection? Does the believer of today have judgment of any sort? This may be given a reply affirmatively. There are three specific judgments and they should be known. Give your soul to their study:-

1. JUDGMENT FOR SIN (Past).

a. The condition of men.

Throughout the Bible, the truth is taught that men are sinners and lost in sin (Rom. 3:9-23). Due to this, they are in need of saving (Eph. 2:8, 9).

b. The commission of Christ.

Here is a glorious truth. Christ actually came to save lost men (Luke 19:10). The mission of our Lord was soteriological (Matt. 20:28).

c. The contention of Calvary.

No explanation can be given of Calvary without noting the sin question. This is exactly what Scripture teaches concerning His death (1 Cor. 15:3; Rom. 5:8; 2 Cor. 5:21). It stands finished (John 19:30).

d. The conviction of the Spirit.

It is true the Spirit is concerned about many things in the lives of believers, but one item is certain: sin (John 16:7-11). It is the Holy Spirit who moves upon men to come to Christ and leave their sin (John 16:8, 9). When they come, the judgment of God for sin in Christ at Calvary is applied to their hearts effectively and it is gone forever (Isa. 38:17; Psa. 103:12; Micah 7:19; John 5:24; Rom. 8:1; Heb. 8:12).

3. JUDGMENT FOR DISCIPLINE (Present).

a. A difficulty.

God sends experiences into the life of all believers for this purpose of discipline (Heb. 12:5-11). This is proof of our Father--son relationship with God (Heb. 12:7, 8). These experiences are to be accepted by faith as being for our good and working toward the peaceable fruits of righteousness (Heb. 12:10, 11).

b. An adversity.

Other experience are sent into the lives of the saints which point to God's desire to say something to him. Paul had such (2 Cor. 12:7-10) and David (Psa. 119:65-72), and Christ (Heb. 5:8 cf. with Rom. 5:3). God is always working out His purpose in us. It is ours to submit!

c. An activity.

One must keep on confessing sin which is known so that should discipline in the life be due to sin, God will make the situation right again (1 John 1:9). On the other hand, one must also rejoice for all things (1 Thess. 5:18) and believe that God is working out all things to bring the child of God into conformity to the Son of God (Rom. 8:28, 29). Keep an eye out for this sort of ministry to your life today.

3. JUDGMENT FOR WORKS (Future).

A believer is not saved by works but unto works (Eph. 2:8-10). Sin no longer has a claim on him.

Guilt is cleansed! Discipline he will experience as night follows day. But short accounts with God will keep this matter minimal. What stands in the future for believers is the judgment seat of Christ.

a. Stated

Two major portions of the Word speak about this judgment openly (2 Cor. 5:8-11; Rom. 14:10-12). The idea is that things which are done unto His Name following salvation will be judged to discover if they were worthwhile or worthless. The Judge will be Christ (John 5:22-23). It is all going to bring honor to Him.

b. Explained.

Jesus Christ is the foundation upon which we all build (1 Cor. 3:11). The kind of labour expended unto Christ is the concern of every real believer. It does not affect his salvation, but it does concern his acceptableness to the Lord. (2 Cor. 5:9), but not his acceptedness (Eph. 1:6). The worthwhile works are called gold, silver, and precious stones; Worthless ones are named wood, hay and stubble. Whatever these items represent, it is clear that believers may render one or the other. The judgment of God's Son will be an evaluative one, not for sanctification or improvement. He will uncover the sort of works (1 Cor. 3:13). Quality is of highest concern! It becomes apparent, then, that the only kind of work desirable is that performed by the Holy Spirit and not anything by the old sin nature (Gal. 5:22-23, cf. with Gal. 5:19-21 and 16, 17). The Spirit uses the instruments given to Him for the glory of God (Rom. 6:11-13). We are assured by the Word that every child of God will have praise of God ultimately (1 Cor. 4:5).

c. Compared.

The whole gamut of truth relating to what will be received at the judgment seat of Christ is linked with the doctrine of rewards. Five are listed in the Word:

1) Self-control reward (1 Cor. 9:25).

This is one of the portions of fruit from the work of the Spirit in the life (Gal. 5:22,