

## **THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**

Some study bibles outline Paul's farewell charge to Timothy from (2 Tim.3:10) to (2 Tim.4:8). By chapter four, Paul's trial has apparently come to a conclusion and he has been sentenced to death (2 Tim.4:6-8, 16-17).

This may have been what motivated Paul to write - "I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by **His appearance** and His kingdom." (2 Tim.4:1)

The Greek word for **appearance** is epiphaneia. In the present context, it refers to a specific part of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ known as the Rapture of the Church (1 Thess.4:13-18; Rev.22:12).

In today's lesson, it is used for the judgment of the living and dead Church Age (CA) believers that will occur as a result of the Rapture known as the Judgment Seat of Christ (JSC). "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (2 Cor.5:10; Rom.14:9-13)

**This lesson will study six aspects of the JSC when "each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (2 Cor.5:10)**

### **1. Jesus Christ qualifies to sit on the tribunal or judgment seat (bema) because he bore the judgment of the sins of the entire world and was raised from the dead (1 Cor.15:1-4; 1 Tim.1:15; 1 John 2:2).**

"For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living." (Rom.14:9; 1Thess.4:14-15)

The JSC will take place in the Third Heaven during the seven years of Tribulation on earth. "Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord." (1 Thess.4:17)

All church age believers will stand before the JSC in their resurrection body - "Who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself." (Phil.3:21; 1 Thess.4:16-17)

### **2. JSC is 1 of 5 eschatology throne periods of Jesus Christ (John 5:22-23, 27/ all judgment given to Son).**

- **Church age throne period** (Ps.110:1; **Eph.1:18-23**; Col.3:1; Heb.1:3; 8:1; 10:12-13; 12:2).
- **JSC throne period** (Rom.14:9-13; 1 Cor.3:10-15; **2 Cor.5:10**).
- **Millenium throne period** (**Matt.25:31**; Rev.20:1-10).
- **Great White throne period** (**Rev.20:11-15**; John 5:24)
- **New Heaven and Earth throne period** (Rev.21-22; **21:5-6**)

**3. I am not familiar with another similar judgment associated with any other dispensation. This makes the JSC unique to the church age believer because of historical Christology.**

JSC will judge two categories of works of every church age believer **but NEVER sin**. “So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.” (Heb.9:28; Rom.8:1)

All our sins were judged once forever on the cross of Jesus Christ (1 Pet.1:18-19; 2:24; 3:18; 1 Tim. 1:15; 2:5-6; 1 John 2:2).

**4. Paul called the two categories of the church age believer’s works at the JSC as good (agathos) [divine work] and evil (phaulos) [cosmos diabolicus works].**

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”(2 Cor.5:10; 2 Tim.3:16-17; 2 Cor.9:8; Titus 3:14; James 3:13-18)

The church age believer will receive eternal rewards for the good works of grace produced by filling ministry of Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6:19; Eph.5:18; 2Cor.5:10). This is called gold, silver, and precious stones that remain as rewards after the testing of fire (1 Cor.3:12-15). The church age believer builds heavenly treasures in Heaven out of his good (agathos) works of grace - “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matt.6:20-21)

“Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, **each man’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 man’s work. If any man’s work which he has built upon **remains**, he shall receive a **reward**. If any man’s work is **burned up**, he shall suffer **loss**; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.” (3:12-15)

The church age believer will receive loss for the evil works of cosmos diabolicus produced by the flesh (OSN) (Gal.5:16-17; 2 Tim.2:19-21). This is called wood, hay, and straw that is burned up and lost by fire that tests the quality of each man’s work (1 Cor.3:12-15).

**5. The church age believer can also be awarded crowns (stephanos) at the JSC (1 Cor.9:24-27). Crowns are awarded for four specific agathos divine works of phase II of CWL.**

- **Crown of righteousness** (2 Tim.4:7-8)
  - Reaching and maintaining spiritual growth maturity until dying grace.
- **Crown of Life** (James 1:12)
  - Persevering under undeserved suffering (Job).
- **Crown of glory** (1 Pet.5:1-4)
  - Faithfully shepherding the flock of God.
- **Crown of boasting or exultation** (1 Thess.2:19-20; Luke 15:7; Phil.4:1; Acts 1:8)
  - Exercising every opportunity to evangelize the lost of the world.

**6. Understanding the doctrine of the JSC encourages the spiritual advancing believer to not judge fellow believers (Rom.14:9-13).**

“Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this – not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother’s way.” (Rom.14:13)

“But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.” (Rom.14:10)

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