

Sunday, June 8, 2014—The Judgment Seat of Christ—What Does it Mean to Reign With Christ? Part 2

Introduction/Review

- In our study of the faithful saying of II Timothy 2:11-13 we learned that all believers will reign with Christ as a matter of FACT. After that teaching I had many questions from the saints regarding what reigning with Christ in the heavenly places entailed and looked like. Last week we began discussing the matter.
- Luke 22:25-27; Mark 10:42-45—we saw that reigning in the kingdom of God is not about authoritarian power and Lordship in the way the gentiles conceive of it. Rather greatest in the kingdom of God is reserved for those **who serve** others not those **who are served**.
- Philippians 2:5-11—Jesus Christ was the Father’s ultimate servant. As a result, Christ is accorded the greatest position in heaven and earth because he demonstrated the greatest capacity for service.
 - Colossians 1:18—Christ is the exalted head of the body the church so that in all things (positions of government) he might have the preeminence.
- Reigning with Christ is not about authoritarian rule or power and authority it’s about serving the Lord Jesus Christ in the heavenly government. This is what the JSC is all about trying/testing the sort of one’s work/service for Christ. While all believers will reign with Christ but not all believers will not have/occupy the same position because all believers do not demonstrate themselves to have the same capacities for service.

Further Thoughts on Reigning With Christ

- What is the future destiny of the body of Christ? Ephesians 2:6—to Reign and rule with Christ in the heavenly places.
- Who currently occupies the positions of governmental authority in the heavenly places that the body of Christ will one day possess? Ephesians 6:12—the rulers of the darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness in high places, i.e., fallen angels.
 - Job 15:15—“. . . the heavens are not clean in his sight.”
- Revelation 12:7-12—in the middle of the 70th week of Daniel (Tribulation Period) there will be a war in heaven between “Michael and his angels” (righteous angels) and the dragon (Satan) and “his angles” (fallen angels). Satan and his angels will be defeated and forced to vacate the heavens as they are sent down to the earth. Who will take up occupancy of these vacated heavenly places? You and I, the members of the body of Christ.

- The positions that you and I will fill are presently and where originally occupied by angles that rebelled against God and were involved in Satan’s policy of evil to challenge the authority of God in the heavens.
- Fundamentally what is an angel? Hebrews 1:13-14—fundamentally angels were created to be “ministering spirits” to serve God in whatever capacities he deemed necessary. The English word “ministering” means the following according to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*: “Attending and serving as a subordinate agent; serving under superior authority. Heb.1.”
- Ezekiel 28:12-18—in the original creation God created angels to serve him. Approximately one third of the heavenly hosts followed Lucifer in his rebellion against God as he moved to assert his own authority over and above the exalted position of service that God had given to him.
- What God is seeking to accomplish with the body of Christ is to form an agency that he can use to repossess the positions of governmental authority back to himself by filling them with a people that will chose to serve him.
- Last week we established that reigning in the kingdom of God is related to service. Angels in the Bible were created to be ministering spirits. A third of the heavenly hosts were not satisfied with the positions of service they were given and moved to assert their own authority by rebelling against God. In the end, they will be forced out of the heavens and replaced with members of the body of Christ. The JSC will determine each believer’s capacity for service in the heavenly government based upon who he or she served in this life.
- Hebrews 12:22—how many angels are there? An innumerable company. In other words more than one could possibly count. How many would a third of an innumerable company be? A lot. Is there any way to know for sure?
- Ephesians 1:20-21—Jesus Christ is currently seated at the father’s right hand in the heavenly places far above all principality, power, might, dominion, and every name that is named.
- Ephesians 1:22—Christ has been made the head over all these positions of governmental authority to the church, i.e., for the benefit of the church which is his body.
- Ephesians 1:23—what is the church which is his body? It is the fullness of Christ. The English word “fullness” carries the following meanings: 1) The state of being filled, **so as to leave no part vacant**. 2) The state of abounding or being in great plenty; abundance. 3) Completeness; the state of a thing in which nothing is wanted; perfection.
- The body of Christ the fullness of Christ that will be used by Christ to fill all in all. They body of Christ will fill up the vacated positions of service left by 1/3 of an innumerable company. Could it be that what determines the timing of the catching up of the church the body of Christ is when that body is sizable enough to fill up the heavenly government and accomplish the purpose for which God formed the body and ushered in the dispensation of grace?