

Sunday, June 29, 2014—The Judgment Seat of Christ—Conclusion

### Series Overview

- How does one summarize and bring to a conclusion 6 months worth of studies on the JSC?
- I Corinthians 5:10—the word translated “judgments seat” is the Greek word *bema*. Occurring only three times, the other word is *kriterion* which deals with the meting out of judgment and justice in a legal of judicial sense.
  - James 2:6—“judgment seats”
  - I Corinthians 6:2—“judge”
  - I Corinthians 6:4—“judgments”
- Acts 7:5—in contrast the Greek word *bema* is found 12 times in the New Testament. In its most basic meaning *bema* is used as a unit of measure i.e., a “foot.” The word *bema* is also used to describe a raised platform on which the judge sat during legal proceedings (and from which he pronounced his verdict) or the seat itself.
- Twice the word *bema* is used in relation to the JSC.
  - Romans 14:10
  - II Corinthians 5:10
- From these core Pauline texts we observed the following realities regarding the JSC.
  - Stand before the JSC (Rom. 14:10)
  - Appear before the JSC (II Cor. 5:10)
  - Give account of themselves (Rom. 14:12)
  - Receive for the things done in the body (II Cor. 5:10)
- According to I Corinthians 3:13 at the JSC every man’s work will be tried by fire. The fire will manifest, declare, and reveal the sort of a man’s work.
  - Manifest—plain, open, clearly visible to the eye or obvious to the understanding; apparent; not obscure or difficult to be seen or understood.
  - Declare—“to make clear”
  - Revealed—“disclosed; discovered; made known; laid open,” according to Webster’s 1828 Dictionary.
- The fire at the JSC will determine the sort of a man’s work: gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble.

- I Corinthians 3:14-15—there are two possible outcomes of the JSC: 1) Loss of Reward, 2) Reward Bestowed. Work in building upon the foundation that survives will be rewarded while work that is consumed will be rewarded by suffering the loss of reward that otherwise could have been received. The JSC is not an all or nothing proposition.
- This conclusion stems from our study of the 8 Principles Regarding Rewards:
  - *Principle 1*—there is a difference between inheritance and reward. (Eph. 1:11-14; Rom. 8:17)
  - *Principle 2*—a man reaps what he sows. (Gal. 6:7-9)
  - *Principle 3*—rewards are simply payment or recompense for a man’s labor. (I Cor. 3:8; I Tim. 5:18)
  - *Principle 4*—rewards are reckoned as a matter of debt. (Rom. 4:4, 11:6)
  - *Principle 5*—rewards are given for bad works. (II Tim. 4:14)
  - *Principle 6*—rewards are reckoned on the basis of works. (I Cor. 3:8, 14-15)
  - *Principle 7*—a believer’s good works are fruit for which they will receive a reward. (Titus 3:14; Col. 1:10)
  - *Principle 8*—rewards are given for work willingly performed; not for things that we are obligated to do.
- Suffering loss at the JSC seat of Christ is a form of reward based upon both the definition of the English word “reward” and the relevant passages of Scripture.
  - See slide
- Issues that could cause one to suffer loss at the JSC include:
  - Departing the faith
  - Failing to keep one’s body under subjection
- Our studies took us to II Timothy 2 where we spent a lot of time studying the faithful saying of verses 11-13. After sharing our misgivings regarding the traditional view of the passage we advocated for the Fact Stating View which has sees Paul as exhorting Timothy to remind people of the following 4 FACTS:
  - Verse 11—Those who ARE dead with Christ (Present) SHALL ALSO live with him (Future)—“If Statement” #1
  - Verse 12—All believers SUFFER (Present) therefore all believers SHALL ALSO reign with him (Future)—“If Statement” # 2
    - Reigning with Christ is about service not about power and authority.

- Verse 12—All believers DENY HIM via their works (Present) therefore Christ SHALL ALSO deny believers reward that they otherwise could have had at the JSC (Future)—“If Statement # 3
- Verse 13—All believers BELIEVE NOT in that we don’t always operate by faith in God written word (Present) yet Christ abideth faithful (Present) because he cannot deny himself.

## Conclusion

- I Corinthians 4:5—when the Lord comes, remember what we studied regarding the timing of the JSC after the Rapture, i.e., after the Lord comes to catch away the body of Christ.
- When the Lord comes in this verse he will do two things:
  - Bring to light the hidden things of darkness &
  - Make manifest the counsels of the hearts.
- At the JSC the Lord is going to bring to light, i.e., shine a light upon the secret and hidden things we have done. Those things we did in the darkness that no one knows about will have the light of truth shined upon them.
- Also the counsels and purposes of our hearts will be made manifest. Not only what we have done that no one knows about but also and more importantly our reasons and motivations for why we did the things we did will be manifest.
- Does this not sound completely terrible? Does it not sound as though there would be total, complete, and utter embarrassment at the JSC? Just when it looks like things could not possibly get any worse notice how verse 5 ends.
- “And then”—after the hidden things of darkness have been brought to light & the counsels of the hearts have been made manifest SHALL EVERY MAN HAVE PRAISE OF GOD. How many is EVERY MAN? All believers will have praise of God. Christ already knew about all the stuff that was wrong with us which is why he did for our sins to begin with.
- Romans 8:1—the only condemnation that believers are under today is the condemnation they place upon themselves by choosing to walk after the flesh, i.e., the law and not after the Spirit.
- I Corinthians 9:24—Paul encourage us as believes to run so as to obtain the prize not for honor, prestige, or power but out of a humble mind set of service to Christ.
- Luke 17:7-10—the servant does woe is me I didn’t have a higher position. His mind is I am doing exactly what my job told me to do.
- Philippians 3:14—forget about your past mistakes and failures and press toward the mark.