

The Journey of Faith

Session 16



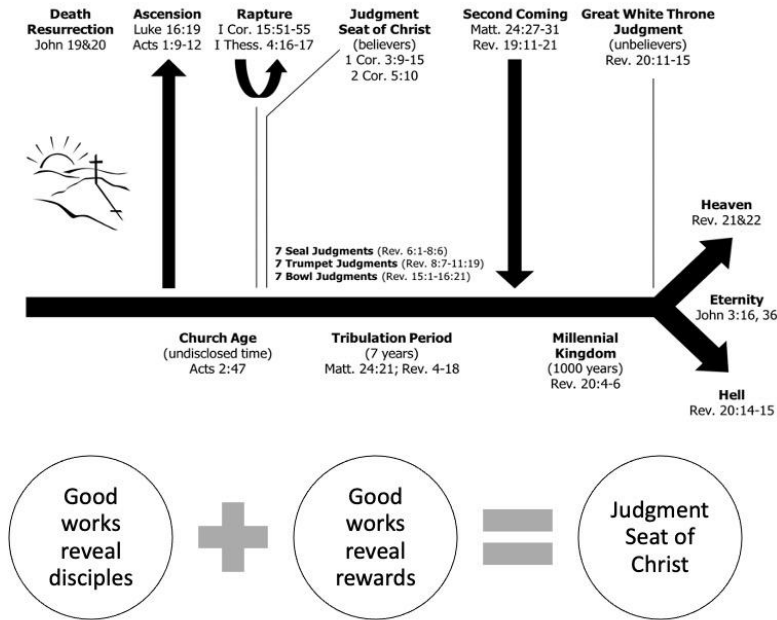
The Judgment Seat of Christ

Teaching Chart

SESSION 16: THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

GIVING AN ACCOUNT OF YOUR LIFE TO GOD

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil." (2 Corinthians 5:10, ESV)



1 Corinthians 3:13-15

Your faithfulness in ministry will be revealed

Faithful ministry with right motives are rewarded

Consider the standard as your pattern of life

Not a judgment of eternal damnation

Rewards at the Judgment Seat

Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:4)

Crown of Life (James 1:12)

Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19)

Crown of Righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8)

Incorruptible Crown (1 Corinthians 9:25)

Lesson

- Overview:** Many people often think in terms of "how will this benefit me now" instead of also examining "how will this affect my future." The spiritual side of things is no different. Christians often think about the present rather than the future; however, Christians will one day stand in judgment before God and give an account of his or her life on earth. Keeping this in mind (that you will stand before a Holy God), your love for Him should motivate you to serve Him during this present life.
- Purpose:** To motivate Christians to live a life of service to God realizing that he or she will one day give an account to Him
- Verses:** (2 Corinthians 5:8-10) Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

- I. Who will be present at the judgment seat of Christ?
 - A. God will be the judge.
 - B. Christians will be the ones being judged.

- II. What will Christians be judged for at the judgment seat of Christ?
 - A. What the judgment seat of Christ is not:
 - 1. It is not a judgment that determines if a Christian will ultimately spend eternity in heaven or hell.
 - 2. It is not a judgment where Christians will be held accountable for sins committed while on earth.
 - a. Jesus Christ died for sin on the cross.
(1 Peter 2:24)
 - b. He stood in your place and was judged for the sins you would have been held accountable for.
(2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - c. Therefore, Christians should not fear judgment for their sins.
 - B. What the judgment seat of Christ is:
 - 1. Christians will be judged for their work and service for Jesus Christ while on earth.
(1 Corinthians 3:13)
 - 2. Christians will not be judged according to the quantity of work they have done, but the quality of the work.
(Ecclesiastes 12:14)

- III. What will be the result of this judgment?
 - A. Some Christians will be ashamed.
(1 John 2:28)
 - 1. Unfaithful Christians will lose rewards because of their failure to serve Christ with the talents, abilities, and opportunities given to them.
(1 Corinthians 3:15)
 - 2. Unfaithful Christians will lose rewards because they chose to live for themselves instead of for God.
(2 Corinthians 5:10)
 - B. Some Christians will receive rewards for their faithfulness during their life on earth.
 - 1. Crown of Glory – reward for pastors who are faithful leaders and teachers of their people in spiritual matters
(1 Peter 5:4)
 - 2. Crown of Life – every Christian will receive this crown, which represents eternal life
(James 1:12)
 - 3. Crown of Rejoicing – reward for Christians who reached the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ
(1 Thessalonians 2:19)
 - 4. Crown of Righteousness – reward for Christians who live a victorious life and look forward to the coming of the Lord
(2 Timothy 4:8)

5. Incorruptible Crown – reward for Christians who discipline, control, and work hard in service for Christ
(1 Corinthians 9:25)

IV. Why is the judgment seat of Christ important?

- A. This judgment will keep you focused on service for Christ instead of serving yourself while on earth.
(2 Corinthians 5:9)
- B. This judgment will help you strive to please God instead of pleasing man.
(1 Corinthians 7:23)
- C. This judgment will assist you develop godly characteristics in your present life.
 1. Patience
(James 5:7-8)
 2. Holiness
(1 John 3:3)
 3. Faith
(1 Peter 5:7)
 4. Peace during trials
(1 Thessalonians 4:13)

Review

1. Who will be present at the judgment seat of Christ?
2. Explain what the judgment seat of Christ will and will not be about.
3. Unfaithful Christians will _____ rewards because of their failure to serve Christ with the _____, _____, and _____ given to them.
4. Will every Christian receive all of the crowns listed? Why or why not?
5. List and describe rewards that Christians can receive at the judgment seat of Christ.

6. Briefly write some things that you can do to obtain crowns at the judgment seat of Christ.
7. Why should the judgment seat of Christ be important to Christians?
8. Briefly describe the purpose of this lesson.

False Teachings

Some churches, organizations, or groups are promoting the following false teachings:

- Christians will be judged for sins they have committed during their lifetime.
- God is not concerned with how you live your life since you will not be judged for your sin at this judgment.
- Jesus Christ will not judge you according to inward motivations and attitudes while involved in service for Him.