

# BECOMING THE CHURCH

## “The Judgment Seat of God”

(1 Corinthians 3:10-23)

Imagine: Beauty pageant. Ladies Swimsuit. 4K hi def camera, we are all going to judge you? Reward? Crown. Bouquet of flowers. Wave - the title “best legs at the Well.” – how would that make you feel? No one likes to be judged.

- Why do so many students get nervous before a big Test? You are being judged on what you learned?

**Main Point: God has gifted each of us in this moment to leverage our life to help others grow spiritually and discover their unique kingdom contribution.**

-God has put you on the earth for His glory to interact with other people (like it or not).

-Everyone has something to offer the Lord!

-We will all give an account to God for how we use His time in this life He has given us!

**Are you using your time wisely?** OR are you wasting your time?

Or worse yet: Are you Wasting God’s time (every moment is a gift that we are to steward).

Ephesians 5:15-16 “So then, be careful how you walk, not as unwise people but as wise,<sup>16</sup> making the most of your time, because the days are evil.” **Chronos** (minutes) vs. **Kairos** (season) = this opportunity!

### READ 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

<sup>10</sup> “According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. **But each person must be careful how he builds on it.** <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, <sup>13</sup> each one’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 one’s work.<sup>14</sup> If anyone’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.<sup>15</sup> If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet *only* so as through fire.

<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that you are a temple [sanctuary] of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? <sup>17</sup> If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy [that] person; for the [temple] of God is holy, [and] that is what you are.

<sup>18</sup> *Take care that* no one deceives himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise.<sup>19</sup> For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the sight of God. For it is written: “*He is the one who catches the wise by their craftiness*”; <sup>20</sup> and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are useless.”<sup>21</sup> So then, no one is to be boasting in people. For all things belong to you,<sup>22</sup> whether Paul or Apollos or [Cephas], or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, <sup>23</sup> and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.”

**This Scripture has to do with how we will ALL account for our time on this earth: JUDGMENT**

### 7 judgments in Scripture:

- 1) The Judgment of Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:14-21)
- 2) The Judgment of the World in Noah’s Day: Worldwide Flood (Gen 6:9-9-17)
- 3) The Judgment of Jesus Christ on the Cross (Jn 12:31; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 9:26-28; 1 Pt. 2:24)
- 4) The Christian’s Judgment for their spiritual “works;” what they have accomplished for Christ (2 Cor. 5:10)
- 5) The Judgment of the Gentile & Jewish survivors of the 7-year Tribulation (Mt. 25:31-46; Joel 3:1-3; Mal. 3:2-5)
- 6) The 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> judgment of the fallen angels (demons) (Jude 6; 2Pt 2:4; Mt 25:41; Rev. 20:1-8)
- 7) Of the Unsaved of all history (Rev. 20:11-15) = “Great White Throne” Judgment

Judgment is inevitable. There is NO “PASS” for you or me. SO..... What will YOU have to show for your life?

- Famous Sermon by RG Lee: "Payday Someday" ... = Judgment is real. Judgment is JUST. Our Standard is Christ. Romans 14:12 "So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God."

Hebrews 9:27-28 "And just as it is destined for people to die once, and after this *comes* judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear again for salvation without *reference to sin*, to those who eagerly await Him."

2 Cor. 5:9-10 "Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. <sup>10</sup> **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, so that each one may receive compensation for <sup>his</sup> deeds *done* through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good/bad."

### We will ALL be Judged. But as Christians, what will we be judged on?

\*Remember, **ONLY two eternal things on the earth today:** 1) The Bible/God's Word 2) People/Human Souls  
-Are you investing daily in God's Word by reading, studying, meditating, and applying it??  
-Who are you investing in spiritually? Who is growing in their walk with Jesus because of you?

Paul Encourages us: **VS.10:** "According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. ... **But each person must be careful how he builds on it.**"

**1. What are you building for God?** For God's glory?

**2. How are you building it?** The How is as important as the What = WHO (whose life are you investing?)

**VS.11:** For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

- **Christ alone is the basis for our life. Salvation in Christ alone, by faith alone.**

- **Not works. Not Baptism. Not Religion. Not spirituality. Not the 10 commandments, not being "good"**

Notice here how Paul compares our spiritual investment into others with (what we consider valuable on this earth: Gold, Silver, Precious Stones (diamonds)).

**VS.12:** Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, <sup>13</sup> each one's work will become evident; for the day will show it (Judgment Day) because it is *to be* revealed **with fire**, and the fire *itself* will test the quality of each one's work.

-Powerful analogy. WHAT we build, what we grow, what we have to show for our time on this earth spent will ALL be measured, weighed, evaluated, and TESTED by God's Holy, refining FIRE: Are you READY? Score?

-How have you developed a prayer life that cost you something? Prayer warrior? Intercessor?

-How have you loved God's WORD? How have you spent countless hours learning, loving, worshipping Him?

-Who have you led to faith in Jesus Christ? WHO, because of your witness, will be in heaven?

-Who have you disciplined to grow into the likeness of Christ? Who, b/c of your investment, looks more like

-Who have you served & loved well? Emulating the love of Christ to others? - "The Least of these.." Mt 25:45

-What have you secretly sacrificed that others may grow in the Lord? Money, time, desires,

- How have you been specifically OBEDIENT to the calls, commands, and WILL of the Lord in your life?

These are spiritual investments. These are what we will BUILD for the Lord. These are what we will give account for to the Lord: Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not **store up** for yourselves **treasures** on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But **store 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 your heart will be also."

**VS.14:** If anyone's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet only so as through fire.

Zechariah 13:9 And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, "They are my people"; and they will say, "The Lord is my God."

Malachi 3:3 "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord."

1Peter 1:7 “So that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

**For Believers**, Jesus has paid the penalty of sin in our life – allowing us to have a relationship with Holy God and eternal life in His presence.

A. Gaining salvation does not depend on our works/good deeds/spiritual efforts.

Eph. 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and <sup>8</sup>this is not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God*; <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

B. Keeping our salvation does not depend on our works or abilities.

Romans 8:1-2 “Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.”

John 10:28-30 “my sheep, no one will ever snatch them out of my hand. No one is able to snatch them Father”

C. However, as Believers who are secure in our eternal salvation, we Are called to work and minister as those who have been miraculously saved: **WHY?** Because God created us to **Worship and Work** for His glory.

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

Philippians 2:12 “So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out** your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, both to <sup>13</sup>desire and to work for *His* good pleasure.”

## APPLICATION:

1. Jesus expects every one of us to make a spiritual contribution to building His Church (**I fear for those who are deluded enough to say that they don't NEED the church – “I can be a good Christian w/out it” – alone!**)
2. That contribution is spiritual, a spiritual investment in the lives of those around you (inside/outside Church)
3. Everyone is gifted to make a spiritual contribution to His Church, the Body – by spiritual investment
4. What we do with the time and opportunity that God gives us, we will be held to account. Judgment is REAL
5. Not just that we are just to give our best for the Lord, but our very attitude and intention of our hearts are measured by God: - For God wants our Hearts FIRST (w/o hesitation, doubt, bitterness, anger, laziness)

1 Cor. 4:5 “but wait until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of human hearts; and then praise will come to each person from God.”

Romans 12:16 “on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of mankind through Christ J.”

- There is still TIME, but the time is NOW. Let's get busy! Who can you begin a relationship w/ to disciple?

- What you do on this earth, echos into eternity. What you invest in spiritually on this earth, will be displayed in heaven. Not just for a reward, or a crown, but for God's glory!!! Out of a life filled with gratitude and praise that God has SAVED/Rescued YOU!!”

**Parable of Talents** Matthew 25:14-30 1 Talent, 2 Talents, 5 Talents (**God** chooses who/why) = faithful?

<sup>14</sup>“For *it is* just like a man *about* to go on a journey, *who* called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents immediately went and did business with them, and earned five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way the one who *had received* the two talents earned two more. <sup>18</sup>But he who received the one talent went away and dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money. – When the Master returned, the one with five and Two talents had multiplied them:

<sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter the joy of your master.’ <sup>25</sup>And I was afraid, so I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you *still* have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>“But his master answered and said to him, ‘You worthless, lazy slave! Did you know that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter seed? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and <sup>28</sup>on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest.’ <sup>28</sup>Therefore: take the talent away from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’ <sup>29</sup>“For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; **-but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.** <sup>30</sup>And throw the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**What has God blessed you with? Life, Time, Gifting, Opportunity: What are you doing with it? Today ...**

What will you do with what you earn in this life? The next?

## Crowns in Scripture

1) **The Imperishable Crown** – (1 Corinthians 9:24-25) “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate [disciplined] in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown” (NKJV). All things on this earth are subject to decay and will perish. Jesus urges us to not store our treasures on earth “where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal” ([Matthew 6:19](#)). This is analogous to what Paul was saying about that wreath of leaves that was soon to turn brittle and fall apart. But not so the heavenly crown; faithful endurance wins a heavenly reward which is “an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you” ([1 Peter 1:4](#)).

2) **The Crown of Rejoicing** – (1 Thessalonians 2:19) “For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?” The apostle Paul tells us in [Philippians 4:4](#) to “rejoice always in the Lord” for all the bountiful blessings our gracious God has showered upon us. As Christians we have more in this life to rejoice about than anyone else. Luke tells us there is rejoicing even now in heaven ([Luke 15:7](#)). The crown of rejoicing will be our reward where “God will wipe away every tear . . . there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” ([Revelation 21:4](#)).

3) **The Crown of Righteousness** – (2 Timothy 4:8) “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” We inherit this crown through the righteousness of Christ which is what gives us a right to it, and without which it cannot be obtained. Because it is obtained and possessed in a righteous way, and not by force and deceit as earthly crowns sometimes are, it is an everlasting crown, promised to all who love the Lord and eagerly wait for His return. Through our enduring discouragements, persecutions, sufferings, or even death, we know assuredly our reward is with Christ in eternity ([Philippians 3:20](#)). This crown is not for those who depend upon their own sense of righteousness or of their own works. Such an attitude breeds only arrogance and pride, not a longing, a fervent desire to be with the Lord.


4) **The Crown of Glory** – (1 Peter 5:4) “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.” Though Peter is addressing the elders, we must also remember that the crown will be awarded to all those who long for or love His appearing. This word “glory” is an interesting word referring to the very nature of God and His actions. It entails His great splendor and brightness. Recall Stephen who, while being stoned to death, was able to look into the heavens and see the glory of God ([Acts 7:55-56](#)). This word also means that the praise and honor we bestow to God alone is due Him because of who He is ([Isaiah 42:8](#), [48:11](#); [Galatians 1:5](#)). It also recognizes that believers are incredibly blessed to enter into the kingdom, into the very likeness of Christ Himself. For as Paul so eloquently put it, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” ([Romans 8:18 NKJV](#)).

5) **The Crown of Life** – (Revelation 2:10) “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” This crown is for all believers, but is especially dear to those who endure sufferings, who bravely confront persecution for Jesus, even to the point of death. In Scripture the word “life” is often used to show a relationship that is right with God. It was Jesus who said, “I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly” ([John 10:10](#)). Just as things such as air, food, and water are vital for our physical lives, Jesus provides us what is required for our spiritual lives. He is the One who provides “living water.” He is the “bread of life” ([John 4:10](#), [6:35](#)). We know that our earthly lives will end. But we have the amazing promise that comes only to those who come to God through Jesus: “And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life” ([1 John 2:25](#)).

James tells us that this crown of life is for all those who love God ([James 1:12](#)). The question then is how do we demonstrate our love for God? The apostle John answers this for us: “For this is the love of God, that we keep

His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” ([1 John 5:3](#)). As His children we must keep His commandments, obeying Him, always remaining faithful. So, as we endure the inevitable trials, pains, heartaches, and tribulations—as long as we live—may we ever move forward, always “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” ([Hebrews 12:2](#)) and receive the crown of life that awaits us.

And what will we do with these Crowns in heaven?

**Revelation 4:9-10** “the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and they will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, <sup>11</sup> “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”