

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Golden Text

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” (2 Corinthians 5: 10)

Useful Practice

All believers will have to appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ, so that each one may receive his reward.

Scripture Reading I Corinthians 3:11-15

11 - For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 - If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,

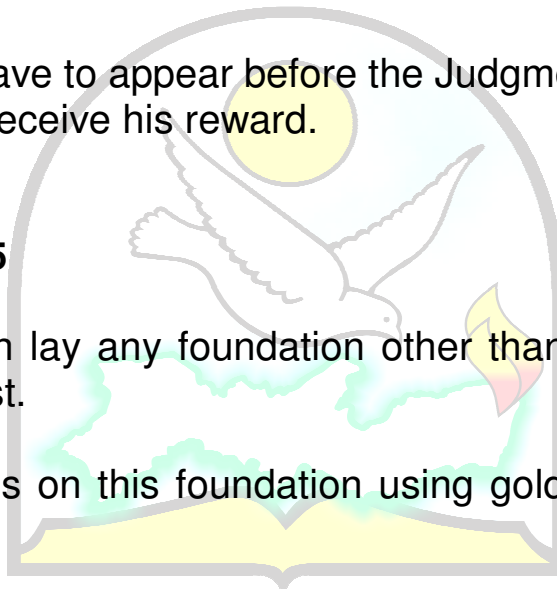
13 - their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.

14 - If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.

15 - If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

General objective

To show that all believers will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ to be rewarded for their works.



Specific objectives

- I To know** that all the saved will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to be rewarded;
- II. To explain** how Christ will judge our works;
- III. To understand** that the day will come when we will have to give an account of our deeds to Jesus.

Introduction

In today's lesson we are going to study the Judgment Seat of Christ and the rewards. All believers will have to attend this judgment, but it is not about the Last Judgment, which will be installed to judge the wicked (Revelation 20:11-15), but it will be a judgment to judge the works and deeds of believers, rewarding them, or not, for what they did in their life. In this Judgment Seat, all believers in Christ will be rewarded justly.

I – THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST AND BELIEVERS

1. The judgment. All believers, already changed and with an incorruptible body, will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ (cf. 2 Cor 5:10; 1 Cor 1:8). It is not about a judgment of sin, because those who will be judged are already saved. The wicked are the ones who will face the judgment of their works and sins, in the Great White Throne judgment, after the Millennium (Rev 20:11-15). Those saved in Christ Jesus, provided that they remain faithful, in holiness, will not go through any kind of condemnation: "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit" (Rom 8:1 KJV). To be "in Christ Jesus" is the indispensable condition to have been saved and stay saved. In this judgment the works of the saved that were practiced on Earth will be judged, that they may receive, or not, the reward (Rev. 22:12).

2. When will it happen? According to Eurico Bergsten, it will take place on the day when Jesus returns. The Savior will return and bring his reward with him (Rev. 22:12). On that great day, all those believers who remained faithful to the Lord, serving Him with integrity, will receive his reward. Paul was a servant who suffered many tribulations (shipwreck, chains, famine, nakedness) in favor of the Kingdom of God, but he hoped for the day when he would receive his crown (reward). He said "on that day" he would receive "the crown of righteousness" that had been in store for him (cf. 2 Tim 4:8). Do not be discouraged by difficulties faced in this world, because Jesus will come soon and will reward all your work. This is the best

recompense that a male servant or a female servant of God can receive.

3. Who will be the judge? We have no doubt and we can say, according to the Word of God, that the judge will be our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Tim 4:8). The Father entrusted all judgment to Jesus (Jn 5:22). Only God and his Son, in the Universe, have the legitimate right to judge men. Like it or not, no one will escape the justice of the Almighty (Isaiah 43.13).

II - THE WORKS OF THE BELIEVER AND CHRIST'S JUDGMENT

1. The accuracy of the judgment. The judgment will be necessary, because it will pass through the screening of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many do the work of God and practice good deeds only to be seen by men. These seek to satisfy their personal interests, seek their own rewards. But the Word of God says that all works will be tested by fire. The divine fire will purify and reveal what the real intention of the heart is .

2. Gold, silver and precious stones. In the Bible, gold symbolizes that which comes from God, divine things (Job 22:23-25; Rev. 3:18). We can compare gold to works that believers have done for the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31). Works done by believers who have a broken and contrite spirit. These were "done in the sight of God" (John 3:21), that is, in partnership, fellowship with the Lord. When we properly use the God-given talents, we perform "works of gold" (Mt 25:14,20). They are works that glorifies not our name or ministry, but God's (Matthew 5:16).

In biblical typology, silver is a symbol of redemption. In the Old Testament, the redemption of the Israelites was paid in silver (Ex 30:11-16; Leviticus 5:15). In the New Testament, it symbolizes the redemption carried out by Christ (1 Peter 1:18; 1 Corinthians 6:20).

The precious stones are symbolic of the Holy Spirit, or the glory of Christ in the believer (John 17:22). Believers who have the spiritual gifts have the adornings of the Holy Spirit. They are works made by the Holy Spirit (Philippians 3:3; Titus 3:5).

3. The works that will perish. "If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the

flames" (1 Cor 3:15). This text shows that there will be believers whose works will not stand when they pass through the divine fire. See:

a) *Wood*. In the Bible, wood is a symbol of human things. It is a figure of the tree that grows by itself. There are believers who do many things, but seeking human glory. In the fire of judgment, they will disappear. There are those who work hard in the church, but do not do it for the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31). The wood does not resist the fire.

b) *Hay*. Hay is grass, dry grass. They are apparent works, but without consistency, without life, such as dry grass (Isaiah 15:6). The grass is perishable (Is 51:12) and represents the works of believers who work only seeking glory and fame for themselves. Unfortunately, today, there are many preachers and singers who only perform the work of God for money or if the event is highlighted in the media. These "have received their reward", right here (cf. Mt 6:2, 5, 16).

c) *Chaff*. The wood has a certain consistency, but chaff is very weak. It does not resist the power of fire. The wind blows it away easily (Ps 1:4; Job 21:18; Hosea 13:3). It is unstable. It cannot be mixed with wheat (Jeremiah 23:28); Chaff represents works without firmness, that is, done by believers who are fickle. Many live changing churches, customs, beliefs, etc. They are taken back and forth, like the chaff, by "every wind of teaching" (Eph 4:14).

III – THE ACCOUNT RENDERING OF BELIEVERS AND REWARDS

Rewards are prizes. Laurels that believers lived up to, because they played the role well to which they were called in the Kingdom of God.

1. Pastors will give an account of their flocks. Being a pastor is a great privilege, but also a very great responsibility. We know that salvation is individual, but those who serve the Lord as pastors, one day, will have to give account to the Chief Shepherd. The prophet Ezekiel, criticized the leaders (pastors) of Israel for caring for themselves, instead of taking care of the sheep of the Lord. Read Ezekiel 34. The prophet was not silent in the face of the error of the leaders of his people, but with courage and boldness, he pointed the sin and pronounced God's judgment (Ezek 34:7-10).

The Lord will give every pastor the just reward for his work. Many have worn out physically and emotionally for the sheep of the Lord. They are tireless in preaching, teaching the Word, visiting and caring for each sheep with great affection and zeal, following the example of the Good Shepherd (John 10:10). These will receive the just reward for the work done. So if you have received from God the pastoral ministry, care for his

sheep with zeal, exercise your ministry with dedication, because soon Jesus will return and will give you the laurels for your work.

2. Believers will give an account of their talents. Every believer has received some kind of talent (skills, gifts) from the Lord. Some receive more and some fewer, because these are distributed according to the ability of each, but all receive (Mt 5:14-30). The Lord expects us to develop our talents with dedication and zeal, using them for the glory of the Father. You are responsible before the Lord for using well what He has given you. Jesus is coming back, that is why it is so urgent that we use our time and talents diligently in his work. Do not act like the negligent servant anymore, who afraid of his master, buried his talent. Use your skills in favor of the Kingdom of God, because the Father will reward you for it.



CONCLUSION

In the Judgment Seat of Christ, faithful believers will see that it was worth bearing the present afflictions: "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us" (Rom 8:18). They will receive their rewards. It is Jesus who will carefully assess the works of the saved to give to each person according to what they have done (Rev. 22:12).

