

A PLACE CALLED HEAVEN

Answering 10 Questions About Your Eternal Home

WILL HEAVEN BE THE SAME FOR EVERYONE? Part Two

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INTRODUCTION: Last week we began discussing why every Christian's experience in heaven will not be the same. While all Christians will escape God's condemnation, they will not escape God's evaluation of their lives.

I. The Judgment Of All Christians (2 Corinthians 5:10)

The Judgment Seat of Christ is for the **commendation** of believers, while the Great White Throne Judgment is for the **condemnation** of unbelievers.

2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

II. The Importance Of Good Works In The Christian's Life

A. The Value of Works Prior to Our Salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Ephesians 2:8-9 "8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

B. The Value of Our Works After Our Salvation (Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10)

While our works are worthless in **securing** us a place in heaven, they are integral in determining our **experience** in heaven.

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

2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

III. What Happens At The Judgment Seat Of Christ?

A. The “Trustee” Analogy (Romans 14:10-12)

Romans 14:10 “But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.”

Romans 14:11 “For it is written, ‘AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD.’”

Romans 14:12 “So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

B. The “Construction” Analogy (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

1 Corinthians 3:10-11 “¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. ¹¹ For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 3:12 “Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,”

1 Corinthians 3:13 “each man’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 man’s work.”

Two Criteria For Evaluating Our Lives

1. The **significance** of our works (1 Corinthians 3:14-15)

1 Corinthians 3:14 “If any man’s work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward.”

1 Corinthians 3:15 “If any man’s work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.”

2. The **motives** for our works (1 Corinthians 4:5)

1 Corinthians 4:5 “Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.”

Proverbs 16:2 “All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the LORD weighs the motives.”

Hebrews 11:10 “He [Abraham] was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”

Hebrews 11:25 “[Moses] choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin;”

Hebrews 11:26 “[Moses was] considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.”

C. The “Race” Analogy (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 “²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; ²⁷ but I buffet [discipline] my body and make it my slave, so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.”

IV. The Eternal Consequences Of The Christian’s Judgment

A. **Rewards** for Some Christians

Revelation 22:12 “...My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.”

1. The Christian's "crowns"
 - a. The "**imperishable** crown" (1 Corinthians 9:25)

1 Corinthians 9:25 "And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable."

- b. The "crown of **exultation**" (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20)

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 "19 For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? 20 For you are our glory and joy."

- c. The "crown of **righteousness**" (2 Timothy 4:8)

2 Timothy 4:8 "In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing."

- d. The "crown of **life**" (James 1:12)

James 1:12 "Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."

- e. The "crown of **glory**" (1 Peter 5:4)

1 Peter 5:4 "And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."

2. The meaning of the “crowns”

- a. Special **privileges**
- b. Special **positions**
- c. Special **praise**

B. **Regrets** for Some Christians (2 John 8; 1 Corinthians 3:15)

1 John 2:28 “And now little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.”

2 John 8 “Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.”

1 Corinthians 3:15 “If any man’s work is burned up, he shall suffer loss, but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.”

Conclusion