

# Judged For What?

The Apostle Paul makes clear that if we have put our faith in the blood sacrifice of Jesus as payment for our sin, we have been forgiven all our sins (trespasses) (Col. 2:13-14). The record of your sinful deeds has been completely removed from the *Book of Deeds* by which the unrighteous will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15). There is no record of your sinful deeds, past, present and future. They have been blotted out by the blood of Jesus. Therefore, without question, we will not be judged nor punished for sin at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Jesus, our Substitute, was judged and punished for our sin.

But our sinful deeds will have an impact on our judgment at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

*At the Judgment Seat of Christ, our sin, though judged and punished at the Cross, will impact our judgment to the degree it hindered our service and faithfulness to Christ.*

## For What Will We Be Judged at The Judgment Seat of Christ?

*Did we seek to serve Jesus?*<sup>1</sup>

*Did we suffer with Jesus?*<sup>2</sup>

*Did we shepherd the Church well?*<sup>3</sup>

I believe these three categories correspond to three types of crowns with which Jesus will reward deserving believers. I explain this in your footnotes. The first aspect is our service for Jesus. It seems to me our service will be judged according to three elements:

### DID WE SEEK TO SERVE JESUS?

Did we seek to obey His Law?

(Matt. 5:17-20; 6:1-6, 16-18; Col. 3; Rev. 2:26-29)

Did we steward our riches to profit His kingdom?

(Matt. 6:19-24, 10:40-42, 19:16-22; Mark 9:41; Luke 6:22-23, 12:22-34; 1 Tim. 6:17-19; James 5:1-6)

Did we do the job He assigned us?

(Matt. 24:45-51, 25:14-30; Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12-14; 2 Tim. 4:6-8; Rev. 3:1-6, 14-22)

This morning I want to draw your attention to Matthew 25:14-30. Prior to giving this parable, Jesus taught about end time events in what we call *The Olivet Discourse* (Matt. 24:1-44). Jesus concluded *The Olivet Discourse* with an application for His followers (Matt. 24:44). Jesus then gave three parables illustrating the need always to live ready for the Lord's return. He taught the parables of the *Household Steward*, *Ten Virgins*, and *Talents* (24:34-25:30). The parable of the *Talents* clearly teaches we will be judged for our service (Matt. 25:14-30). The parable of the *Talents* teaches:

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<sup>1</sup> Those who serve receive *the crown of righteousness* (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

<sup>2</sup> Those who suffer with Him receive *the crown of life* and will be co-heirs with Jesus receiving honor along with Jesus in the Messianic Kingdom (Rom. 8:17; James 1:12).

<sup>3</sup> Those who shepherd well receive *the crown of glory* (1 Peter 5:1-4).

*As we wait for the Lord's return, we should do the job He's given us to do and upon His return, He will praise and reward us. If we fail to do so, upon His return, He will rebuke and deny us those potential rewards.*

The hard part of this parable is the harsh treatment of the third servant. It is rough, but I think it is rough in order to persuade us we need to faithfully serve Jesus and do the job He's given us to do; if we don't, there will be very negative consequences.

In addition to the general good works we are to do such as giving financially, serving our neighbor in need, sharing the way of salvation with others, God has several jobs that are specific to you, one of which is your *charisma*; your spiritual gift (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12-13). Every Christian has been given at least one charisma by which to build up the local church. Through His Spirit, Jesus has given you a job to do in your church. You don't even need to know what your charisma is before you start serving. If you start serving, you will discover your gift. You will love doing it and the church family will affirm that when you serve according to your gift the church family experiences blessing.

There are other jobs specific to us such as husband, wife, father, mother. These jobs come with specific responsibilities and duties for which we will be judged. I'm not going to unpack all these, but on this Mother's Day I want to speak to all the mothers here this morning past and present. You have one of the most important jobs in all the world raising children. You are serving the Lord Jesus as you raise your children to love and serve Jesus. Please never think that your parenting is taking away your ability to serve Jesus. You are serving Jesus in one of the most profound ways possible as you disciple your children. To all our godly mothers I say, be encouraged for great will be your reward!

It is clear our service for Jesus will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Another aspect of our Christian life to be judged will be our suffering with Jesus.

## **DID WE SUFFER WITH JESUS?**

Were we willing to suffer the process of sanctification putting to death the deeds of our bodies and dying to our fleshly desires?

(Rom. 8:12-17)

Did we endure persecution and love our enemies?

(Matthew 5:10-12, 43-48, 10:26-33; Luke 6:22-23, 32-36; Rom. 12:14-21; Rev. 2:10-11)

Did we persevere in faith under trial?

(James 1:12; Rev. 2:10-11, 15-17, 3:7-13)

Suffering with Jesus comes in various forms. It can be suffering associated with sanctification. It can be in the form of violent, physical persecution. Suffering with Jesus can be in the form of remaining steadfast in trial.

Please turn to Romans 8:12-17. Here, the Apostle Paul encourages us to fully engage in the process of sanctification. Sanctification is the process of being spiritually transformed to possess the very character of Jesus. It is a very hard process because it requires rejecting our self-centered, self-serving attitudes and habits and replacing them with Christ-centered, Christ-serving attitudes and habits. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can become more like Jesus, but not without struggle. According to Romans 8:17, those who endure the suffering of sanctification will be honored together with Jesus in the Millennial Kingdom.

As sons and daughters of God, we are heirs. If we suffer with Christ, we will be honored together with Him in the Millennial Kingdom. Suffering, in this context, refers to suffering the sanctification process: putting to death the deeds of the body. It seems to me; Jesus has a special place in His heart for those who endure

suffering with Him whether it be in the hard struggle of sanctification or the frightening realm of physical persecution.

Finally, the New Testament reveals those who lead the church will be evaluated by Jesus. Certainly, this includes the Elders, but I think it will include anyone who served in a leadership position or exercised significant influence over a local church.<sup>4</sup>

### **DID WE SHEPHERD THE CHURCH WELL?**

Did my leadership help the church mature spiritually?

(1 Cor. 3:1-17)

Did I resist false teaching and help the church stay true to God's Word?

(2 Timothy 2:1-13; 2 John 7-11)

As an elder, did I shepherd the church willingly, eagerly, and as an example of godliness?

(1 Peter 5:1-4)

In 1 Peter 5:1-4, the Apostle Peter makes clear godly elders will be rewarded by the Lord Jesus.

What I have presented this morning represents an effort to identify and organize those things for which we will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ in such a way we can remember them. I am certainly not suggesting this is comprehensive or that someone else has not done a better job organizing it. But I hope what we have studied this morning is a helpful guide in evaluating ourselves in light of the Judgment Seat of Christ.

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**VOM Items for the Month of May: Box of one gallon zip seal plastic bags and medical tape.**

**Children's ministry and VBS signups for volunteers will start Sunday, May 15th out on the patio.**

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<sup>4</sup> My personal conviction is that 1 Corinthians 3, which speaks about the Judgment Seat, is directed towards leaders and how they built on the foundation of the Church – Jesus (1 Cor. 3:10-12).