

## The Christian's Judgment

### Introduction

- A. It seems almost to be a contradiction – to speak of the believer's judgment. Did not Jesus Christ die that the believer be forgiven? If the Christian is forgiven – how can he be judged?
- B. However, when we look at the way many Christians live their daily lives we are faced with a question. Some live a dedicated godly life – others are not so dedicated nor are they so godly! Will both be simply equal when they get to Heaven? Should not obedience and faithfulness be rewarded?

### I. The Explanation of the Christian's Judgment.

- A. It is not a judgment related to salvation.
  - 1. The believer has been completely forgiven.

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Rom. 8:1

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Hebrews 10:17

- 2. The believer has been made fully righteous.

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. II Cor. 5:21

- B. It is a judgment related to the faithfulness and obedience of the individual believer. It does not determine his entrance into Heaven. It determines what kind and how much reward he will receive in Heaven.

### II. The Fact of the Christian's Judgment.

Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, Who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts, and then shall every man have praise of God. I Cor. 4:5

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. II Cor. 5:10

Observation: These verses emphatically state that all believers will stand in judgment before God. The secrets of our hearts will be revealed. We will be judged (perhaps lose reward) for our disobedience and rewarded for our obedience.

### III. The Basis of the Christian's Judgment.

And that servant, which knew his Lord's will and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes shall be beaten with few stripes, for unto whomsoever much is given of him shall be much required; and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more. Luke 11: 47,48

... For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Romans 14:10-12

Every man's work shall be made manifest, for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is . If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss, but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire. I Cor. 3:13-15

Observation: The question is not whether we will get to Heaven. We will be judged for our faithfulness and obedience to God.

### IV. The Exhortations related to the Christian's Judgment.

And if ye call on the Father, Who without respect of persons, judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear. I Peter 1:17

And now, little children, abide in Him, that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. I John 2:28

Observation: It is very possible that we will be ashamed in the day of judgment. We must learn to walk in reverence and abide in Him.

### V. The Explanation of the Christian's Judgment.

The above verses indicate that the judgment will be based on our works. Therefore, every believer will be judged on the basis of the ability, knowledge, opportunities, privileges, etc., which were particularly his. We will be evaluated according to what we could have been – if we had honored God.

Conclusion: There is nothing more important than knowing and doing the will of God. There are dimensions in our daily life that go far beyond our wildest imagination\* What we sow – we will reap!

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