

Judgement Seat of Christ
Sunday 3 February 2019

Key Theme: Whatever the saved believers do in their bodies will have eternal consequences.

Good afternoon everyone. Welcome to the afternoon service at IIBC.

All right. Today's message might be new to some of you.

We will talk about the judgement!

With fire!

If you are saved, you all are heading to this judgement.

The question is are you ready to face with this judgement.

Some of you might raise the question already.

Saved believers will face the judgement too? Really, Brother Bern?

I invite all of us to please open the Bible in the Book of Second Corinthians. Chapter Five and Verse Ten. It is our key verse for today's preaching.

It reads

2 Corinthians 5:10 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.

*****Prayer*****

These day people have a wrong view about God. They tend to focus more on one specific attribute of God over another.

Modern Christianity talks more about God's love. Whatever we do, God is OK with it.

But they talk so little about God's righteousness and holiness.

Not so many preaches against sins anymore!

They think it will scare and upset church members. They fear that people would not come to church.

We are saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are sealed to the day of redemption.

Once saved, always saved.

No doubt about it. It is true. It is Biblical.

But the Bible is not all about getting away from Hell!

Surely, it is not all about salvation!

As saved believers, after salvation, you always have a choice to live your lives and serve the Lord with gladness and thanksgiving.

Or to just go back to the world.

God would not override your free wills.

Whatever your choice is, remember there will be eternal consequences.

One of God's attributes is righteousness. Let us read [Hebrew 12:29].

Hebrews 12:29 For our God *is* a consuming fire.

Fire is hot. And fire can burn.

Our God in the Bible can do only what is right.

He hates sins. He cannot excuse sins. And He must judge sins.

People these days do not really fear God anymore.

Why?

Because they did not see an immediate judgement by Him.

Even saved believers!

God does not send an immediate judgement on us is not because He agrees with our sinful things we do.

But He is gracious and merciful. The Bible says in [Matthew 5:45].

Matthew 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

He ... sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust...

But we treat His mercy and grace for granted.

Ladies and gentlemen. No one can get away with God!

Not even saved believers!

Now back to our key verse in [2 Corinthians 5:10].

2 Corinthians 5:10 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.

..For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ...

It says, who?

We.

This refers to saved believers.

How many?

All.

OK, I need to switch quickly to the Bible teaching mode.

We call this doctrine the Judgement Seat of Christ.

It is one of the unpreached doctrines in churches today.

When we talk about the judgement in the Bible, people automatically think that there is only one judgement.

The common one people know is the Great White Throne Judgment.

In fact, there are more than one judgement in the Bible if you study it carefully.

- 1) The judgement of believers as to sin. It was done already by Christ who died at the cross. [Isaiah 53:6, John 5:24]
- 2) The judgement of believers as to works. It will be done in the future after the Rapture of the Church. [2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 14:10, 1 Corinthians 3: 10-15].
- 3) The judgement of the Jews. It will be done in the future at the time called "The Great Tribulation". [Ezekiel 20: 34-38, Jeremiah 30: 4-7]
- 4) The judgement of the Nations. It will be done in the future with Gentiles for their treatment with the Jews. [Matthew 25:31-46]
- 5) The Great White Throne Judgement. It will be done in the future with the wicked dead. [Revelation 20: 11-15]

The Judgement Seat of Christ is reserved only for saved believers.

Now if you are saved, you all are heading to this judgement.

When will this judgement occur?

Let us go to [1 Corinthians 4:5].

1 Corinthians 4:5 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.

The time of Judgement Seat of Christ is when the Lord comes following the Rapture of the Church.

Where will this judgement take place?

Let us read [1 Thessalonians 4:17].

1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

It will take place "in the air".

The Judgement Seat of Christ is not for sin but for works.

The Bible warns saved believers that whatever they do after they get saved matters.

It will have eternal consequences for them.

We can see how the Bible described the Judgment Seat of Christ in [1 Corinthians 3: 11-15].

1 Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

1 Corinthians 3:13 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.

1 Corinthians 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

1 Corinthians 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

In verse 11, we can know that the foundation of each saved believer is the Lord Jesus Christ.

He is the owner of the salvation.

He gives it to us freely.

It is Him who has kept us saved!

In verse 12, we can see two different sets of materials. One is valuable. Another one is inferior.

Gold, silver, and precious stones are valuable.

Wood, hay and stubble are worthless.

Paul tried to tell saved believers that not all works, or ministries done for the Lord are profitable.

It is the quality that matters!

How can we apply this Biblical truth?

Saved believers need to check their motive and attitude for the services done for the Lord.

Why you do what you do for the Lord?

Why do you come to church?

In verse 13, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself will evaluate each believer of their works.

So, no way you can fool Him!

The Lord will test the quality of believers' works.

All the works saved believers have done for Him will be evaluated here. It will be tested by fire!

Pay attention here. The verse says ...of what sort it is...

The emphasis is on the quality!

The old preacher used to say like this.

"The Judgement Seat of Christ is like a one-time final exam. No pop quizzes. No midterm. Final grade will just be given there".

If you are saved and God has been trying to tell you of certain things in your lives that needs correction, are you listening to Him?

Or have you been ignoring Him?

Ladies and gentlemen.

When all saved believers appear at the Judgement Seat of Christ, there is no more chance to undo things.

In verse 14, if a person's work pass inspection, then he will be eligible for reward.

There is a reward for quality works!

In verse 15, if a person's work does not pass the evaluation of the Lord, the works will be burned up. That believer will suffer loss of reward.

Not salvation!

You need to remember that only saved believers can get to Heaven and appear at the Judgement Seat of Christ.

If the person is not saved, he cannot go to Heaven anyway.

Now tough question.

Is it possible to do service and ministry for the Lord with wrong motives?

Yes, a saved believer could do a good service and ministry for the Lord but have sinful motives.

Others would not know or see about this.

It is between that believer and God who would know.

Remember, God cannot be fooled!

What are some wrong motives?

A desire to be recognized, a desire for power, a desire for control.

Remember, a small amount of gold, silver and precious stones carries more value than a large quantity of wood, hay and stubble.

Rewards are based on the value of our works instead of the quantity of our works.

It is better to do a few things faithfully for the Lord's glory than to do many things for our own glory.

God must receive all the credits! Not us!

All the rewards at Judgement Seat of Christ have one thing in common.

It is that you love the Lord more than anything else.

This brings us to the conclusion of today's message.

- 1) All saved believers are heading to the Judgement Seat of Christ. It will happen in the air following the Rapture of the Church.
- 2) Works done by saved believers will be tested by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Saved believers can either win or lose the reward from Christ.
- 3) The Lord is more interested in the "quality" of works.
- 4) Remember to always check your motives for the services done for the Lord.

Like the old hymn we used to sing.

Little is much when God is in it!

Labor not for wealth or fame;

There's a crown, and you can win it,

If you go in Jesus' name.

May the Lord please help all of us.

*****Prayer*****