

**"The Day of Accountability"**

**Part 1**

**2 Corinthians 5:9-16**

**Introduction:** Today in our study of 2 Corinthians we have again come to chapter 5. Last week in our study of 2 Corinthians we finished our study of "Death and the Believer" which was covered in 5:1-9. In 5:9 Paul pointed to his "Ambition" which caused him to continue to press forward for the Lord no matter what he faced. His ambition was that he desired to found pleasing to the Lord.

**Notice 2 Corinthians 5:9**

To "be accepted of the Lord" means "to please Him in service". It was Paul's desire to hear the Words of our Lord as recorded in Matthew 25.

**Matthew 25:21a**

<sup>21</sup> *His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant:*

As we move on in our study tonight Paul is going to point to the day when he hoped to hear those very Words from Jesus Christ.

**"The Judgment"**

**Notice 2 Corinthians 5:10**

As we work our way through this verse I want us to consider some questions which will help us to understand the JUDGMENT which Paul is pointing to here. The first thing which Paul states here is that WE MUST ALL appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

**1. Who is judged at this judgment?**

I need to first of all make it very clear who the "ALL" are who Paul is speaking of here. The ALL here refers to ALL believers. This judgment has absolutely nothing to do with the unsaved. The judgment of the unsaved is recorded in Revelation 20.

**Revelation 20:11-15**

<sup>11</sup> *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

<sup>12</sup> *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

<sup>13</sup> *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

<sup>14</sup> *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

<sup>15</sup> *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

This is the judgment of the unsaved and it is known as The Great White Throne Judgment. These people at the Great White Throne will receive different degrees of punishment based upon their sin and the amount of Truth which they were exposed to in their lives.

The judgment which Paul is pointing to in 2 Corinthians 5:10 is the judgment of the SAVED.

## 2. What will we be judged for at this judgment?

Notice 2 Corinthians 5:10 again.

We have talked about this before but it is good to refresh our memories. First of all we need to understand that we will NOT be judged for our sins. All of our sins were judged at Calvary when Jesus died on the cross.

### Isaiah 53:4-6

<sup>4</sup> *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

<sup>5</sup> *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

<sup>6</sup> *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

### 1 Corinthians 15:3

<sup>3</sup> *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

### Hebrews 10:11-17

<sup>11</sup> *And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:*

<sup>12</sup> *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;*

<sup>13</sup> *From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.*

<sup>14</sup> **For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.**

<sup>15</sup> *Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,*

<sup>16</sup> *This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;*

<sup>17</sup> **And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.**

It is quite clear through the Scriptures that Jesus DIED FOR ALL OF OUR SINS. That would be past, present, and future. So we will not be judged for our sins at this judgment. So what is it that we will be judged for?

We will be judged for how we have used what has been entrusted to us as believers since the day we were saved. Let me show you a parable which Jesus told in Matthew 25.

### **Matthew 25:14-19**

<sup>14</sup> *For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.*

<sup>15</sup> *And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.*

<sup>16</sup> *Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.*

<sup>17</sup> *And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.*

<sup>18</sup> *But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.*

<sup>19</sup> *After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.*

To each of us there have been given different "talents". TALENTS are anything which can be used for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. They are spiritual gifts, opportunities, open doors, money, possessions, free time, and the list goes on and on. Now let me show you another passage.

### **1 Corinthians 3:11-15**

<sup>11</sup> *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

<sup>12</sup> *Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;*

<sup>13</sup> *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.*

<sup>14</sup> *If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.*

*<sup>15</sup> If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

Here is another view of the same judgment. Now let me explain how this judgment will work. As we are given talents to use for the Kingdom as we go through this world we will be judged according to how they were used and we will be judged according to our motives.

I will use myself here as an example. There are many things which I can do with my time which God has entrusted to me. I can come here and help build the new addition with every moment of free time I have but for me that is building with wood, hay and stubble because my spiritual gift is teaching the Word. For others who come to help here at the church your work may be building with precious stones, silver or gold because that is how you are gifted. For my work to be precious stones, silver and gold I need to be using my time to study and to teach the Word of God.

Let me use the example of free time. God may give you free time throughout the week and there are many ways to use it. You may choose to go shopping, work in the yard, go fishing, or go to a ball game. These are not sinful things but neither are they building with precious stones, silver or gold. If you use that free time to study the Bible, or you use that free time to visit someone in a home or who is sick that is building with precious stones, silver and gold. Now let me throw another twist on this. If you use your free time to visit someone in a home and you do it so that others will see you as spiritual then it is all for nothing.

Our work will be tried by fire. So if we build with wood hay and stubble it will all burn up. It is only when we build with precious stones, silver and gold that our work will last and we will receive a reward.

### **1 Corinthians 3:13-15**

*<sup>13</sup> 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.*

*<sup>14</sup> If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.*

*<sup>15</sup> If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

We will be judged for how we have used what was entrusted to us and we will also be judged for our motives. It can be the right work with the wrong motive and it will burn up.

**Notice 2 Corinthians 5:10 again.**

Paul says we shall all "appear". This means we will all be made manifest. Now this raises a question in my mind. To whom will our motives and our works be made manifest?

It will not be to the Lord for He already knows our motives and our work. It will not be to the angels for that would have no spiritual importance. Many believe we will be manifest before each other and everyone there will know our works and our motives. But what would be the purpose of that? You will not be concerned about my works and my motives when we get there because you will have your own judgment to be concerned about. This is not a competition. No one but Jesus will be glorified. So who will we be manifest to?

Our own hearts will be manifest to ourselves. You see we do not even know our own hearts now.

### **Jeremiah 17:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

<sup>10</sup> *I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

Our own hearts will be exposed so that we can see into the depths. We do things for the Lord today and many times our motives are completely wrong and we do not even realize why we are doing what we are doing. On the Day of Judgment we will know our own motives and we will see every time we wasted time, finances, and opportunities or neglected to sacrifice for the Kingdom. On that day our hearts will be broken as we see what we could have done for the Lord and what could have been.

### **Notice 2 Corinthians 5:10 again.**

The word "bad" at the end of the verse means "worthless" according to Strong's definition.

#### **3. When will this judgment take place?**

This judgment will take place after the Rapture and before we return with Jesus Christ at the end of the Tribulation. Let me now connect this to the next point.

#### **4. What will be determined by this judgment?**

This judgment will determine what responsibilities we will be given in the Kingdom.

Let me take you back to the Parable of the Talents again.

### **Matthew 25:19-23**

<sup>19</sup> After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

<sup>20</sup> And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

<sup>21</sup> His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

<sup>22</sup> He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

<sup>23</sup> His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

At the Great White Throne Judgment of the unsaved there will be different degrees of suffering handed out for eternity. In heaven there will be different degrees of rewards given to the saved. But there will be no boasting nor will there be the exaltation of any believer. All glory and all praise will go to Jesus Christ.

#### Revelation 4:10-11

<sup>10</sup> The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying.

<sup>11</sup> Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

#### Conclusion:

At this judgment I believe that every believer will receive a reward.

#### 1 Corinthians 4:3-5

<sup>3</sup> But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.

<sup>4</sup> For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

<sup>5</sup> 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.