

1 CORINTHIANS

Lesson Five: Judgment Seat of Christ

First Baptist Church Chappell Hill, June 27, 2021

Learning the Bible Effectively

- Key Question: What was the author's intended message for his original audience? (secondary question, how do I apply it to my life?)
- Some concepts are barely mentioned in the Bible but garner substantial attention in Bible studies and sermons
- Other concepts are taught repeatedly and get little or no attention in most Bible studies and sermons (e.g., almost all Old Testament writing prophets)
- It stands to reason that if God repeats a concept over and over He probably expects us to give that concept due attention
- Today's lesson covers the judgment seat of Christ, which is pervasively taught in the New Testament, sometimes by reference to our inheritance or rewards

A Kingdom Parable

Luke 19:11 And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

- Read Luke 19:12-27 — a parable about the Kingdom delayed
- 19:13 — ten servants and ten pounds implies each gets one
- 19:14 — His citizens refers generally to Israel
- 19:15-26 — judgment on his servants
- 19:27 — judgment on his enemies
- You were given one pound by King Jesus and when he returns to implement his Kingdom you will answer for what you did with your one pound
- NOTE: the parable of the talents in Matthew 25 does not teach the same lesson as the parable in Luke 19

Peter

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- Note Peter's reference to a living hope — hope is a confidence in God's promised future blessings
- Here, that blessing is an inheritance reserved in heaven
- What is the inheritance? How do we get it? Does everyone get it?

James

James 2:8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: ...**12** So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. **13** For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

- James urges his audience to be doers of the word not hearers only
- He illustrates using the Royal Law or perfect Law of Liberty — to love others as ourselves
- To fulfill the Royal Law is to do right by God
- James warns that Christians will stand judgment based on how well they loved others in fulfillment of the Royal Law / Law of Liberty
- Not about eternal salvation but about rewards / inheritance

Paul

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.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: **17** And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

Philippians 4:15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. **16** For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. **17** Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

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

Colossians 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

The Judgment Seat in 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians 3:5 Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? **6** I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. **7** So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. **8** Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and **every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.**

- Remember that chapters 1 thru 4 address the problem of divisions in the local church in Corinth
- Paul referenced in chapter 1 how the Corinthians were dividing over who did their baptisms
- Paul just explained in 3:1-4 that he wants to feed them meat but they can only take milk because they are carnal
- Paul makes the simple point that he is only a servant, but so also are the Corinthians, and each will be rewarded according to his own service — this makes life serious business

The Judgment Seat in 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building. **10** According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man **take heed how** he buildeth thereupon.

- Paul laid a foundation as he planted the church in Corinth but every believer has a role / ministry / service in building thereon
- Every person needs to take his or her service seriously
- Is what Paul said about milk / meat important?
- What if you just opt not to serve?
- Will God give participation ribbons?
- What is our destiny as Christians? Understanding that question is key to understanding the importance of our service.

The Judgment Seat in 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; **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.

- Broadly speaking our Christian works fall into two buckets
 - Gold, silver, precious stones (doing God's Word)
 - Wood, hay, stubble (not doing God's Word)
- The **QUALITY** of our works will be **revealed by fire**
- All of the **wood, hay, stubble** burns away and therefore has no value to us at this judgment
- Only the **gold, silver, precious stones** will remain

The Judgment Seat in 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. **15** If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

- The works shown to be in the **gold, silver, precious stones** bucket will result in a reward
- The works shown to be in the **wood, hay, stubble** bucket will burn up and result in no reward
- Paul presents a hypothetical man whose entire life goes up in smoke and ashes — he has nothing in the **gold, silver, precious stones** bucket — What did his life look like?
- Paul adds that this man will still be saved
- The judgment seat of Christ is not about our eternal salvation but about rewards