

BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS
THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST
(THE BEMA SEAT JUDGMENT)
2 CORINTHIANS 5:9-10

Introduction

Paul **lived every day in light of eternity!** He wanted both **his life** and **his death** to be well pleasing in the sight of the One Who saved him!

Paul wrote the Galatians about this:

Galatians 1:10—"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."

He said he prayed for the Colossians after this manner:

Colossians 1:10—"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;"

Paul understood just as we should that the **praise of man is only temporary, but the praise of God is eternal!** Paul knew the reality that **one day he would stand before God and give an account of what he had done in his life on earth just as every other believer will!**

The time of **judgment for believers** will take place **after the rapture of the Church.** The words "**judgment seat**" in verse ten comes from the Greek word **Bema.**

The **Bema** was an **elevated seat** in the square in Corinth **where the Roman magistrates sat to administer judgment.** It was also a **place where awards were given out to the winners of the annual Olympic games.** **Only winners who had earned some type of reward were allowed to stand before the judgment seat!**

The **Bema seat judgment** is a time when God will **reward believers for their works!** It is **NOT** a time for judgment of sin! Thank God **ALL** of our sins were judged on the cross! **So this is not a time to determine if a person is saved or lost! Only saved people will be there!** The lost will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment a thousand years later after the millennial reign of Christ!

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Paul had already written to the Church of Corinth about the **Bema Seat Judgment.** He warned them in **1 Corinthians 3:12-15** that they would all stand before Christ and give an account!

He tells WHO: "*every man*" (speaking to believers) "*must all appear*" !

He tells WHAT: "*work shall be made manifest*" !

This is not dealing with salvation, but rather it is dealing with the believers works! (i.e. Quantity and quality of work for the LORD!)

Gold, silver, precious stones

All planted in the earth by God. They had to be dug out.

When first dug up they do not look like much. The more they were "*tried,*" the more valuable they become.

wood, hay, stubble

Easily found, but never long lasting. This will be a judgment of motives and hidden emotions (anger, malice, pride, jealousy, etc.)

This will also be a judgment of how we have used the **time** and **talents (including spiritual gifts) and treasure** that God has allotted to us!

He tells HOW: "*by fire*" (judgment)!

He tells the RESULTS: Either "*receive reward*" or "*suffer loss*"!
Revelation 22:12—"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

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Some say there are at least five different crowns mentioned in Scripture as possible rewards:

1. Crown of life:

*James 1:12—"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the **crown of life**, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."*

This is also sometimes called the martyr's crown.

*Revelation 2:10—"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a **crown of life**."*

2. Crown of glory:

*1 Peter 5:4—"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a **crown of glory** that fadeth not away."*

This is sometimes called the Pastors crown or shepherd's crown—i.e. A crown given to the faithful under-shepherd by the Great Shepherd.

3. Crown of righteousness:

*2 Timothy 4:7-8—"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: {8} Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."*

(i.e. A crown given to all who stay faithful and are looking for His return.)

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(See: Luke 12:35-42; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 9:26; Philippians 3:14)

4. Crown of rejoicing:

*1 Thessalonians 2:19-20—"For what is our hope, or joy, or **crown of rejoicing**? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? {20} For ye are our glory and joy."*

Daniel 12:1-3—"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. {2} And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. {3} And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

This is said to be the crown given to soul winners.

5. Incorruptible crown:

*1 Corinthians 9:25-27—"And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; **but we an incorruptible**. {26} I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: {27} But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."*

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This is said to be the crown of the faithful, separated believer.

Conclusion

What will we do with the crowns?

Revelation 4:4—"And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold."

Revelation 4:10-11—"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, {11} 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."

=====I
WHAT WILL BE TESTED?

- 1. OUR TREATMENT OF OTHER PEOPLE—CHRISTIANS AND NON-CHRISTIANS.** (*Hebrews 6:10; Matthew 10:40-42; Matthew 25:40; Ephesians 4:1-3; 31-32; Galatians 5:13-15; 1 Corinthians 6:1ff; 1 Corinthians 8:6ff; 1 Corinthians 10:31-33; 1 Corinthians 13; Philippians 2:2-4; Colossians 3:8-14; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15; James 3:13ff*)
- 2. OUR STEWARDSHIP OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH BY GOD.**
(*1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Matthew 25:14-29*)
 - A. OUR USE OF OUR TIME.**
(*Psalms 90:12; Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5*)

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- B. OUR USE OF OUR TALENTS—GOD-GIVEN ABILITIES.**
(*1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 2 Timothy 1:6; 1 Peter 4:10*)

- C. OUR USE OF OUR TREASURE—OUR MONEY AND POSSESSIONS.** (*Proverbs 15:16; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; 1 Timothy 6:17-19*) **Includes:**
 - 1. The Gospel** – *1 Thessalonians 2:4; 2 Corinthians 4:7*
 - 2. Our Spouses** – *Proverbs 18:22; Proverbs 31:10*
 - 3. Our Children** – *Psalms 127:3*

- 3. HOW WE RUN THE RACE WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN.**
(*1 Corinthians 9:24; Philippians 3:13-14; Hebrews 12:1; Acts 20:24; 2 Timothy 4:6-8; Galatians 5:7*)
- 4. HOW WE CONTROL THE OLD NATURE.**
(*1 Corinthians 9:26-27; 1 John 2:28*)
- 5. HOW WE WITNESS AND LEAD OTHERS TO CHRIST.**
(*Daniel 12:3; 1 Thessalonians 2:4, 9, 19-20; Philippians 2:16*)
- 6. HOW MUCH THE DOCTRINE OF THE SECOND COMING HAS MEANT TO US.** (*2 Timothy 4:6-8*)
- 7. HOW FAITHFUL WE ARE TO THE WORD OF GOD.**
(*2 Timothy 4:1-2; 1 Peter 5:2-4*)
- 8. HOW WE SUFFER FOR CHRIST.**
(*1 Peter 4:12-13; Revelation 2:10; Matthew 5:11-12*)