

Messages From the Gates of Jerusalem
#31 - Muster Gate - Part II - Requirement: Faithful Steward

I Cor. 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

- a. In the past, God dealt with us as sinners.
- b. In the Present, God deals with us as children.
- c. In the future, God will deal with us at the Bema Seat as stewards.

Important Truths Regarding the Judgment Seat of Christ

1. ALL justified believers will stand before Jesus Christ at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Rom. 14:10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

I Cor. 3:13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire;

II Cor. 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

2. The Judgment Seat of Christ occurs in heaven after the Rapture of the Church.

3. It is a significant event with potential serious ramifications.

4. Justified believers are NOT judged for sin. The Judgment Seat DOES NOT determine salvation. Salvation was determined by Christ's sacrifice on behalf of the blood bought believer (I John 2:2) and the believer's faith in Him (John 3:16).

Rom. 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.

To say otherwise would deny the completeness of the death of Jesus Christ, and nullify God's promise that "their sins and iniquities will I remember no more." (Heb. 10:17)

5. We were created IN CHRIST JESUS for good works after our justification.

6. Rewards and levels of authority and responsibilities will be determined at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

7. These rewards will NOT be the same for all believers.

8. Some will stand ashamed > life lived; lost opportunities; deep regret; lost privileges

Apostle Paul linked Pleasing Christ with Doing Well (please Him) Judgment Seat of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Belief: Judgment Seat of Church Age Believers will occur after the rapture of the Church.

A. Apostle Paul linked the Judgment Seat with the Resurrection of the Just. (Rapture)

B. He also linked the Resurrection with Reward.

Luke 14:13-14 But when you give a feast, invite *the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind.*

¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for *you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.*"

In Rev. 19:8, when the Lord returns with His bride at the end of the 7 year Tribulation period, she is seen already rewarded. Her reward is described as fine linen, the righteous acts of the saints which are undoubtedly the result of rewards.

"Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear."

C. Apostle Paul linked rewards with "That Day" and with the Lord's coming. (church>rapture)
II Tim. 4:8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

I Cor. 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

- Sequence:
1. Rapture which includes our glorification/resurrection bodies
 2. Exaltation in the heavens with the Lord
 3. Examination before the Bema
 4. Compensation or Reward > Positions of Authority
 5. Wedding of Christ to His Bride
 6. Return with Him at His 2nd Coming

Eph. 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Question: What is my purpose in life as a justified believer in Jesus Christ?

Eph. 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

After justification, a believer is to yield to the Holy Spirit for sanctification.

I Thess. 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification.

Note: This involves the transformation of our soul (mind, will, emotions) into the image of Jesus Christ.

Note: False and preconceived notions regarding sanctification emanate from man's inclination to achieve the approval of God through self-effort > human good.

Sanctification > Hebrew = qadash; Greek = hagasmos

Both words convey the meaning of being "set apart," "purified," or "consecrated."

Separate from what is sinful; attach to righteousness.

Three Types of Biblical Sanctification

1. Positional sanctification relates to the believer's justification.

A. Every believer at the moment of salvation acquires the status quo of:

- Being set apart in Christ Jesus (1 Cor. 1:2; Heb. 10:10; Col. 2:10)
- Entered into union with Christ
- Shares all that Christ has and is; partaker of the divine nature

B. Once-for-all change in the legal status before God. He is totally justified (set apart

permanently) by the sealing of the Holy Spirit. The very righteousness of Christ is attributed to him by God who henceforth sees him as having died, been buried and raised again in newness of life in Christ.

Eph. 1:13-14 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

2. Experiential sanctification involves the believer's spiritual growth.

A. Goal > Abide in Jesus Christ; Transformed into image of Jesus Christ

B. Key is submission to the Holy Spirit

C. Begins immediately after justification; continues until physical death or the Rapture

D. Involves the filling of the Holy Spirit who gives the grace and power to live it

Eph. 5:26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

E. The key to experiential sanctification, spiritual maturity, is the proper use of 1 John 1:9 and learning Bible doctrine.

3. Ultimate sanctification is the future of every believer in his resurrection body in the eternal state (1 Cor. 15:35-54; Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2). We will be set apart unto God for all eternity; live in God's presence forever.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Ultimate sanctification, a foregone fact of the new birth, will take place at the Rapture, when his body is forever changed into the immortal image of the body of the risen Christ.

Phil. 3:21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

1 Cor. 1:30-31: But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness [Positional] and sanctification [Experiential] and redemption [Glorification]—that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

Positional Sanctification For the Christians, nothing more to be done. Position has been secured by faith alone in Christ alone (Acts 26:18 - that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.)

Ultimate Sanctification (glorification) Nothing will stop our *glorification*. It too has been secured by faith alone in Christ alone.

Experiential Sanctification is not vicarious (cannot be transferred or imputed) but is accrued progressively (moment-by-moment) as a result of the Christian's obedience to God's will as revealed in His Word.

Christian growth is a balance or union between God's sovereign work by His Spirit and man's responsiveness (will), as seen in

Philippians 2:12-13: Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out [Gk. "katergazomai"—cultivate] your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

The concept in this passage is similar to a farmer who owns a field. The field is his possession, but what is produced on it depends on how he cultivates it. The field can produce little to nothing, or it can bring forth a rich crop. It all depends on the farmer and how he cultivates it. In the case of the possession of salvation, the property of every Christian, there is always God's way of cultivating and man's way of cultivating. God's way is always to "work through" the believer, which produces divine good (works accomplished under the power of the Holy Spirit with proper motivation on the part of the Christian and which will always glorify Jesus Christ). Man's way is to function under his own will and self-effort, which produces human good (works conducted under his own power with improper motivation and which glorify only him).

Wherefore, my beloved ones, as you always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, carry to its ultimate conclusion [likeness to the Lord Jesus] your own salvation with a wholesome, serious caution and trembling, for God is the One who is constantly putting forth His energy in you, both in the form of your being desirous of and of your doing His good pleasure. - Amplified

1 Corinthians 3:11-15: For no other foundation [Positional Sanctification] can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if anyone builds [Experiential Sanctification] on this foundation with:

- a. gold, silver, precious stones [divine good],
- b. wood, hay, straw [human good],
- c. Each one's work will become clear; for the Day [of Judgment] will declare it,
- d. It will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.
- e. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures [as in divine good], he will receive a reward.
- f. If anyone's work is burned [as in human good], he will suffer loss;
- g. but he himself will be saved [Ultimate Sanctification], yet so as through fire.

Four Practical and Essential Aspects of Experiential Sanctification

1. Grounded in God's Word

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your Word is Truth.

Eph. 5:25-26 Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word.

2. Apprehended by Faith

It is a dangerous path when a child of God attempts to achieve *experiential sanctification* by self-effort. God abhors man's efforts to please him through man's will and strength

Col. 2:6 As [in the same manner] you have therefore received [by faith alone] Christ Jesus the Lord, so [in this same way—by faith] walk in Him.

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

3. Conducted only in the power of the Holy Spirit who produces divine works in and through the believer.

A. Immersed into the Body of Christ

B. Sealed unto the Day of Redemption

C. Granted spiritual gifts for Christian Service

1 Cor. 3:16- Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

2 Cor. 1:22 Who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Consider: Holy Spirit's control may only be limited by the believer's improper personal (willful) choice. Believers' wrong choices allow sin to crowd out the influence of God's Spirit in his life, even though God's Spirit will never depart from the believer—not in whole or part.

Truth: It is God's will that each believer always be "filled" with (controlled, influenced by) the Holy Spirit in order to be divinely empowered for service.

Once sin enters a believer's life:

a. He quenches (restricts) the Holy Spirit

b. He grieves (causes hurt or emotional pain in) the Holy Spirit

c. Now, it is up to the believer to enact 1 John 1:9, which if judiciously followed, will immediately reestablish the "filling" of the Holy Spirit in his life—a fact of faith, not feeling.

d. The "filling" (empowerment) by the Holy Spirit is not to be "prayed for" or "begged from God." One doesn't receive it by agonizing over the matter.

Nothing done apart from the Holy Spirit will honor God!

4. Focused always on Jesus Christ.

Christ will dominate his thoughts, his life, his praise, his gratitude, his testimony and his service. This focus will point others to Jesus Christ.

John 15:26 But when the Helper comes, whom I [Jesus Christ] shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

1 Cor. 2:2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.