

Messages From the Gates of Jerusalem
#32 - Muster Gate - Part III - Judgment Seat of Christ

God gives us the gift of faith by which we believe in Jesus Christ.
Then He gives us the gift of eternal life when by faith (gift) we accept Him.
God then works within us so that we might serve Him.
For our service He honors us with eternal rewards or privileges.
He delights in giving to those who do not deserve His love.

Judgment Seat = Bema = Place of judgment in an athletic game = receive their reward according to the way they performed

Sign in registrar's office at Dallas Seminary: Salvation is by grace. Graduation is by works.

II Cor. 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
Strong's #5337 = Greek > Phaulos = easy, slight, ordinary, mean, worthless, of no account

Rewards will be given or lost according to how one has conducted his life for the Lord.

Note: It is important to avoid WASTE in your life. > Wood, hay, stubble

Important Truths Regarding the Judgment Seat of Christ

I. Place of Consideration

Our spiritual growth and life will be taken under consideration.

I John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Question: Do you see a connection between your life now and eternity? Your destination (heaven) does not change. Your conduct affects your rewards, privileges, authority, etc.

II. Place of Compensation

Rewards, responsibilities, authority given according to our works after justification Heaven will not be the same for everyone; degrees of rewards.

I Cor. 3:8 - Each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

Rev. 22:12 - "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to everyone according to his work.

Matt. 16:27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

Matt. 6:20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

This verse is meaningless if everyone has the same reward in heaven.

Criteria for Judgment

A. Quality not Quantity - I Cor. 3:11 - Start with the foundation of Jesus Christ - the solid Rock - Problem: Not everyone who receives Christ lives the same kind of life.

I Cor. 3:12-13 Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

2 categories of material are mentioned - The torch will be put to the "house."

The fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. Quality is more important than quantity. Many people work their fingers to the bone in the energy of the flesh.

Quality - works done in the Spirit - with a yielded humble person.

Works done in the flesh dishonor God and will not yield reward.

Consider: Am I offering to God things He doesn't want?

I Samuel 15:1-5 Samuel also said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the LORD.² Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek *for* what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt.'³ Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'" So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah. And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley.

Saul's Disobedience: 1. He utterly destroyed ALL the people EXCEPT King Agag.

2. He kept the best of the sheep, oxen, fatling and lambs.

3. Made a value judgment of his own; called GOOD what God said to DESTROY.

4. Saul told Samuel he had performed the commandment of the LORD.

Samuel's Response¹⁴ But Samuel said, "What then *is* this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

5. Saul's Answer - v. 15 "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed."

Saul was offering to God the very best of what God hated > the animals of the Amalekites.

Samuel: To OBEY is better than sacrifice and to LISTEN than the fat of rams.

Consider: Many do what they think is right instead of what God requires.

Many observe religious ordinances, fasting, prayers, good works, etc.

Truth: God wants our OBEDIENCE. If we are serving in the flesh, we cannot please God.

We are trying to give Him the best of what He hates. God doesn't want my flesh;

He wants it crucified. He doesn't want me to do things for Him; He wants to do things in me and through me.

Food For Thought: 1. a. God had Saul anointed as king. Heed God's Words
 b. We are to be kings/priests in His Kingdom.- Rev. 5:10
 2. a. God told Saul to utterly destroy Amalek > type of the Flesh.
 b. We are to be crucified with Christ; put the deeds of the flesh to death.
 3. a. Saul's obedience was incomplete; he offered God what God hated and ordered> Death
 b. Do I offer God what He hates? Works of my Flesh; what I think will please Him?
 4. a. Samuel said to Saul, "...you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel." The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, (v. 26-28)
 b. What is the application for me?

B. Criteria for Judgment: Did I strive lawfully?

I Cor. 9:24-27 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*.²⁵ And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*.²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air.²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified (castaway).

Strong's #96 adokimos -failing to pass the test; unapproved; castaway; rejected

Unless we obey the Word of God in our service, there will be loss of rewards.

II Tim. 2:5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

This life is training for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

God's purpose is to mature us in faithfulness and service.

Goal During Training: II John 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but *that we may* receive a full reward.

1) Discipline

The word translated "striveth" or "competes" (NKJV) in I Cor. 9:25 is from agonizomai in the Greek text. This is the English word "agonize."

Luke 13:24 Strive (agonize) to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

Strong's # 75- to endeavor with strenuous zeal, strife, to obtain something;

Paul knew he would appear before Christ's bema at the termination of the contest as a runner

a. Approved for an incorruptible crown

b. Disapproved for the crown

Note: Castaway - I Cor. 9:27 - Greek: adokimos = disapproved

Note: Those who fail in the race of faith will be disapproved and "suffer loss" at this time.

I Cor. 3:15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss;

Note: Discipline alone will NOT produce godliness. Abiding in Christ is the key to godliness.

Consider: Phil. 3:13 - Paul says, "This one thing I do!" - not 40 things I dabble in.

2) Direction

I Cor. 9:26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air.

Keep your eye on the goal and focus on Jesus Christ.

Phil. 3:12-14 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Consider: Paul strains toward the goal, grasping for what lies ahead. The goal is to be your consuming passion.

Heb. 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith -FOCUS IS EVERYTHING

3) Determination

Heb. 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

The witnesses are the heroes of Hebrews 11. We are motivated because of their lives and testimony of endurance. Endurance is possible if we remember where we are headed.

Instructions:

- a. Keep my weight down - Lay aside every weight - Don't clutter your life with needless stuff.
- b. Run with patient endurance; active persistence > race appointed for you
- c. Keep your feet free - Free from the sin that so easily "entangles" you. Sin tangles our feet, makes us stumble and eventually causes us to lose the race.

Note: You have an obligation to those who have stumbled.

Heb.12:12-13 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

4) Make it to the Finish Line

I Cor. 9:27 But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified (castaway).

I Cor. 10:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, ² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink.

For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

They were given ALL they needed to run successfully.

I Cor. 10:5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness.

Consequences: They suffered loss; lost their inheritance; No entrance into Promised Land

Criteria for Judgment:

A. Quality not Quantity

B. Did I Strive Lawfully? Discipline, Direction, Determination, Making It to the Finish Line

C. What is my motivation?

I Cor. 9:16-17 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.

How many times have you done something in the church because you felt you had to?

Why do you come to church? He sees our motives.

People praying on the corner to be seen of men. Your reward is you have been seen of men.

D. Things We Attempted To Do

I Kings 8:17 Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel. ¹⁸ But the LORD said to my father David, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well that it was in your heart.

5 missionaries who attempted to take the Gospel to the Auca Indians: Will they lose reward because they didn't succeed? NO! They will be rewarded. Gave their lives for the Gospel

Question: Are you a soul winner? - It's not that you don't win souls; it's that you don't try. You don't attempt or have a desire to win the lost.

Matt. 10:41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. ⁴² And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold *water* in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

Big or little things done in the name of the Lord with right motivation yield reward.

Jim Elliot: He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.