

Messages From the Gates of Jerusalem
#33 - Muster Gate - Part IV - Judgment Seat of Christ (Continued)

III. Place of Clarification - Things will look different in the pure white light of eternity

I Samuel 16 God had anointed Saul as king of Israel, but he became proud and arrogant. He chose to disobey God's command to utterly destroy the Amalekites. Then he wanted to offer God a sacrifice that God hated. God ultimately rejected him as king.

God's choosing of David teaches that God does not look on the outside but on the inside - what characterizes a man. God sent Samuel to the house of Jesse to anoint one of Jesse's sons as the next king of Israel.

I Sam. 16:6-7 So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed *is* before Him!"

Samuel saw a tall, good looking young man who looked like he would be a great king and leader. "But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance (countenance) or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For *the LORD does not see as man sees*; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'

Samuel made the mistake of judging Eliab based on his appearance. This was the same mistake Israel made regarding their first king. Saul *looked* the part but he didn't have the *heart* a king of God's people should have. It didn't matter how good Eliab *looked* because God said, "I have refused him."

The LORD has not chosen these: God's choice was different from Samuel's or Jesse's expectation. Eliab and the seven oldest sons of Jesse were perfect potential kings as far as the flesh is concerned. God didn't want a king after the flesh. Israel already had a king like that.

Arise, anoint him; for this *is* the one!" referring to David.

God chose one to be king who had a heart after God's own heart.

Prayer: Change my heart O God! May I have a heart after God's own heart!

Luke 16:14-15 Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him. He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

I Cor. 3:13 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.

Mark 12:41-44 Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many *who were* rich put in much. ⁴² Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. ⁴³ So He called His disciples to *Himself* and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; ⁴⁴ for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood." *Sacrificial Gift*

Many poor here will be rich in eternity. He expects more out of some than others.

Luke 12:48 For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

Adrian Rogers: Many of God's nobody's are going to be somebody's at the Judgment seat. Everything will become clear.

Dr. Erwin Lutzer: "Standing before Christ we will soon see the difference between an actual victory and wishful thinking. We will see what it took to win and what it took to suffer loss. We will discover that in this life we were playing for keeps."

IV. Place of Contrition

I Cor. 3:15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

You will NEVER lose your salvation because the foundation of JESUS CHRIST cannot burn. The foundation will still be there but everything built on it of wood, hay & stubble will burn and you will suffer loss.

Improper Attitude (Erwin Lutzer): "I'll be content to sit in the back row." It is true that to "have any seat" in heaven is an undeserved honor. But consider this: What if those who "sit in the back row" are there because they have displeased Christ in their earthly spiritual growth? What if it was the Father's good pleasure to "have us sit in the front row," but we forfeited this privilege because of carnal living?

Remember: The idea of rewards is that of our Father who desires to bless us beyond all human reason. Therefore: I should be all that I can be on earth so that I can be all that I could be in heaven. How? Holy Spirit working in me will conform me to image of Christ.

Truth: Rewards are a reflection of Christ's approval of me. It is not wrong to want to sit in the front row if such an honor is reserved for those who hear Christ say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Improper Attitude (Rogers): Just build me a shack or little cabin in the corner. I'll be satisfied. It won't satisfy God.

Suppose you wake in the middle of the night & sense that your house is on fire. You can hear the timbers groaning and creaking. The drapes are blazing. Flames are licking up around your bed. Your house is not insured - you have no money in the bank. All your valuables are in the dresser drawer. Children are in their rooms. NO time to awaken your children or get your valuables. There's a burning hole in the wall. The only time you have is to leap through that hole in the wall to be rescued. As you make a desperate leap for your life, and jump out of the house made of wood, hay & stubble, it comes crashing down behind you. You hear the screams of your children- moans & groans of your loved ones as they perish in the flames.

A neighbor comes and stands beside you. You stand out there in the cold and everything that you have worked for all your life goes up in smoke. What would you do? Would you put on a big smile and say, - Wow, I made it - am I lucky! Everything went up in smoke but I saved my

hide. Here I am, safe. Let's celebrate! NO!

You were saved yet so as by fire. Lukewarm, carnal, indifferent Christian

Take Note: John 10:10a The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.
I Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

C.S. Lewis: Screwtape, a senior devil, giving advice to Wormwood, a junior devil, on how to keep Christians from being effective. "It is funny how mortals always picture us as putting things into their minds: in reality our best work is done by keeping things out."

If the devil can divert us from our duties as a servant, if he can keep our minds diverted from our proper priorities, the brevity of time to labor, and the necessity of laboring zealously, then he has robbed us of much reward and our Lord of much glory.

Biblical Attitude Concerning Rewards: We are admonished to NOT lose our reward.

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.

Rev. 3:11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Heb. 10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

I Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

We have seen the Judgment Seat is a place of consideration, compensation, clarification and contrition. We will all stand before Him and give an account.

John Greenleaf Whittier: "Of all the words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: 'it might have been.' "

Everyday our Lord tarries is another day in which we can choose to humble ourselves in absolute surrender to our Lord.

Our "final exam" is rapidly approaching! What are you doing to prepare for it?

I must press toward the mark for the "Prize of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus."

An aspect of God's divine plan for man is revealed in:

Rom. 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Ephesians 1:12 We should be unto the praise of His glory.

Consider: In obedience, I must come to Him eager to be changed so I can be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ and my life can bring praise and honor to Him.

Question: How can I endure & respond correctly to trials and tribulations in life?

Heb. 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was

set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Endured for the joy set before Him > Honor & Glory

Biblical advice from Paul, Peter and James > Focus, Perseverance, Suffering, Tribulations
Paul's attitude in II Cor. 4:7-10; 16-18 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. ⁸ *We are* hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— ¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

Therefore we do not lose heart. (Act badly, Give up, Grow Weary)

Note: We will be able to stand and not lose heart when the "benefits" of the Horse Gate are appropriated in our lives. The Horse Gate represents being fully clothed with the armor of Jesus Christ who gives us victory and causes us to stand. Our obedience at the Dung Gate is crucial and vital in our spiritual growth (which I am to be considering) for us to be filled with the Holy Spirit and under His control and influence. Only He can work the life of Jesus in me.

Even though our outward *man* is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which *are* not seen are eternal.

Paul's Instruction Manual for Eternal Glory:

1. KNOW your suffering is producing for you eternal glory.
2. Fix your eyes on what is unseen = Eternal

Peter's Admonition: I Peter 1:6-9 In THIS you greatly rejoice, THIS = verses 3-5 - Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to:

1. a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
2. an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
3. who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

I Peter 2:20-21 For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. ²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

Suffering For God's Glory - I Peter 4:12-16 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. ¹⁶ Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

Perseverance: James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Rom. 5:3-5 And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Promise:

II Pet. 1:10-11 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; ¹¹ for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Question: What are these things?

II Peter 1: 5-9 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

I Cor. 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

Col. 1:29 And for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

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.