

CHAPTERS FOUR AND FIVE – A PLACE OF REWARD OR LOSS

INTRODUCTION

In our first message of Revelation 4-5 we saw incredible things unfold in heaven. We were blessed to know that we will one day witness these same glorious proceedings firsthand. Last week we approached our text from a _____ standpoint and learned about the _____ of the church, the incident that launched us up into Revelation 4-5. Today we will look at an occurrence not described in these chapters, but an event that none the less took place...

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

1. The Judgment Seat of Christ

- This judgment will be for your _____ to the Lord Jesus Christ _____ your salvation – 2 Co. 5:10; Ro. 14:10
 - You will be judged for your _____ as a servant of Jesus Christ – 1 Co. 3:11-15
 - By placing your faith in Jesus Christ, you do _____ have to fear judgment for your sins, because He took your judgment upon Himself at Calvary – 1 Peter 2:24; 2 Co. 5:21; Gal. 3:13
- Your work will be judged for the _____ behind it and for the _____...
 - _____ attitudes will be more important than actual works. If the proper attitudes are developed, the proper works will come naturally – 1 Thess. 2:4; Ephesians 6:6

2. The _____ of the Judgment Seat

- The Judgment Seat of Christ will take place immediately _____ the rapture of the church and just before the documented events of Revelation 4-5.
 - The details and proceedings of the Judgment Seat are _____ described anywhere in the book of Revelation, yet it has to happen sometime...
 - The elders of Rev. 4-5 are obviously redeemed church age saints (Rev. 5:9).
 - The raptured church age saints are obviously present in Rev. 4-5 (Rev. 5:11).
 - The elders have _____ on their heads (Rev. 4:4); crowns represent rewards received...
 - The elders cast their crowns before the throne at Jesus' feet (Rev. 4:10)
 - Because elders are always described in the NT as church leaders, it only stands to reason when they cast their crowns at Jesus' feet, likewise all the raptured church age saints will do the same...
 - Jesus shows up in Rev. 19:12, at the conclusion of the tribulation with "many crowns" upon his head...

3. The _____ aspect of the Judgment Seat

- It is a place of _____
 - The rewards you receive on earth are all temporal and will perish. The rewards you receive at the Judgment Seat of Christ are _____ and will never perish – 2 Co. 4:17-5:4

- The rewards obtainable at the Judgment Seat of Christ can be seen by studying the _____ crowns described in the New Testament:
 - 1) Crown of _____ – 2 Timothy 4:8
 - 2) Crown of _____ – James 1:12; Revelation 2:10
 - 3) Incorruptible Crown - 1 Corinthians 9:25
 - 4) Crown of _____ - Phil. 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:19
 - 5) Crown of Glory - 1 Peter 5:4
- The Judgment Seat of Christ is one of the most _____ doctrines for everyday living in the Bible...

4. The _____ consequence of the Judgment Seat

- Suffer _____
 - Some Christians will _____ loss because their works were temporal and not eternal – 1 Co. 3:15

5. A simple illustration

- Mr. Smith had three sons who worked with him in his business. His oldest son Al was a diligent worker who was never late for work and often stayed late if needed. He did whatever he was asked to do and was willing to do some of those dirty jobs everyone else avoided. He often ate lunch with his dad and asked many questions in order to understand the business better. These frequent lunches helped Al understand the business and his father.

Mr. Smith's second son was Ben. Ben worked hard and was fairly dependable but had many interests outside of work. Ben's mind was frequently on these other interests and because of them he was often unwilling to give extra time to the job. He got along fine with his dad, and his work was usually good.

Carl was the third son and was more of a "free spirit" (though some might say "undisciplined"). Carl's definition of being on time to work was arriving within 25 minutes of starting time. His work was generally acceptable, but he made too many mistakes largely because his mind was elsewhere and also because he really didn't understand the procedures and policies of the business. The policies and procedures he did understand were pretty silly to him, and so he did not take them seriously. Although Carl was not on the "same page" with his father, he had no significant conflicts with him.

Mr. Smith loved his three sons dearly. Each was precious to him, and he loved them equally. But when Mr. Smith got ready to retire, which son did he put in charge of his business, along with the significant pay increase and some nice "perks"? To answer that question one does not need a Ph.D. in human behavior or a master's degree in business administration. Carl was a reluctant worker, and Ben had divided loyalties. Al knew his father and his father's business and had been faithful and diligent. Is there any doubt that the position and the perks go to Al?

Our Heavenly Father loves His children dearly and equally, and the Bible is quite clear that He is not a respecter of persons (see Eph. 6:9). But when it comes to rewarding His children, He will deal with each of them fairly. Those who know Him well and who have obediently and faithfully carried on His business in this world will be rewarded in a greater way than other children who have been careless, self-focused, and unfaithful. Some children will receive great reward while others will experience the loss of those rewards that the Father wished to give. It has nothing to do with the children's behavior and good works. The receiving of rewards or the losing of rewards will take place at the judgment seat of Christ when the Son of God will evaluate the lives of those who have been born into the family of God through his blood.

The Believer's Payday written by Paul N. Benware – Chapter 1, pages 9-10; AMG Publishers