

## The Bema judgment seat for believers. Pt. 2

*Wisdom dictates that we begin with an end in view. (Heb. 9:27)*

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC , Sunday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>*

*John 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me"*

The Bible teaches that every one will be evaluated before one of two very different and distinct Judgment Seats. Even the word "Judgment" is different in the passages about these two "seats".

- 1) The Great White Throne Judgment (krino: sentence) seat in Rev. 20:11-15.
- 2) The "Judgment Seat (bema: throne, platform, tribunal) of Christ in 2 Cor. 5:10; where each believer will be evaluated: *"According to that he hath done, (Prassō: practiced) whether it be good (agathos: beneficial) or bad."* (kakos: worthless)

Since God created us on purpose and for specific purposes (Eph. 2:10; Rev. 4:11; Ro. 8:28,29)

God's word provides the instructions to help us do this. 2 Tim 3:16-17 *"All scripture is given ...*

*That the man of God may be perfect, (artios: complete, mature) thoroughly furnished (exartizō: fully equipped) unto all good (agathos: beneficial) works."* (ergon: works, effort)

God's word provides some "parables" to help us understand this process. 1 Cor. 3:9-16 tells us:

**We're God's "building" and *"laborers together with God"*.**

### 1. The foundation is critical.

A. This is the Gospel truth! Vs 11: *"For other foundation can no man lay than that (which) is laid, which is Jesus Christ."*

- 1) It has nothing to do with our works. Eph. 2:7 *"not of works, lest any man should boast."* (Tit. 3:5)

B. Everything else rests upon this Foundation! Mt 7:24-27

C. Our Faith is the anchor-bolt that ties us (Who we are and what we build!) to it!

Heb 6:19 *"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast"*

Eph. 2:8 *"By grace are ye saved, through faith..."* Pistis: conviction. From peitho: to trust, commit.

Heb. 11:1 *"Faith is the substance (hypostasis: from hypo: under and histemi: to stand firm) of things hoped for"*

- 1) Anchor bolts are "Committed". (Cemented into the foundation!)
- 2) It's by faith that we *"abide (Meno: remain) in Christ"* Jn 15:4,6,7

### 2. Whatever we build on this foundation will be examined! Vs 10

*"But let every man take heed (blepo: beware) how he buildeth thereupon."*

A. This has everything to do with our works! *Are they "good" or "Bad" in God's eyes?*

B. Notice the choices available to us? 10,11 *"Now if any man build upon this foundation:*

- 1) *"gold, silver, precious stones"*

a) These have inherent, (eternal) value. Mt 6:20 *"lay up for yourself Treasures in heaven"*

b) These are rare and take effort to develop! Mal. 3:17; Eph. 2:10

- 2) *"wood, hay, stubble"*

a) These are the temporary things of Mk 4:19 *"cares of this world ..."* and Phil. 3:18,19

b) They may have "temporary value", *But lack any eternal value or significance.*

### 3. The Bema will reveal their true nature (and value) of our works

Vs. 13 *"Every man's work shall be made manifest: (phaneros': apparent)"*

- A. When: *"for the day shall declare it" (deloo: reveal)* (See 2 Cor 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:8)

**B. How? Vs. 13** *"it shall be revealed by fire..."*

**1) This is not physical fire!**

**a) Purgatory is a pagan practice that pre-dates Christianity!**

(1) Plato wrote of it in 375 BC. (Book X of the Republic)

(2) Virgil wrote of it in 25 BC. (Book VI of the Aeneid)

**b) Our "works" will pass through the fire, not our souls!**

Vs 13 *"The fire shall try (dokimadzo: Test, Examine, Approve!) each man's work."*

**2) What does this fire represent?**

**a) Clarity!** Heb. 4:12-13; Rev. 1:14; 19:12 *"His Eyes were as a flame of fire"*

**b) Purity!** Zech 13:9; Heb. 12:28,29 *"... let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear; For our God is a consuming fire."* (See also Rev. 4:5 and Isaiah 11:2)

**C. Why? "the fire shall try (dokimazo: test, prove, approve) every man's work"**

**1) "of what sort (hopoi'os: kind, quality) it is"**

**a) "whether it be good" (beneficial) 2 Cor 5:10** The *"gold, silver, precious stones"* of vs 12 representing eternal "treasures in heaven"

(1) The fire will only Purify these!

**b) "or bad" (kakos: worthless) 2 Cor. 5:10** Symbolized by the *"wood, hay, and stubble"* (vs 12)

(1) These could be the "treasures on earth" Jesus warned about in Mt. 6:19.

(2) These are the "weeds" that Jesus warned so often "choke" God's word and will. Mt 13:22

(3) The fire would completely consume these!

**2) Our eternal rewards will be based on what's left after the "fire"! 1 Cor 3:14**

**a) "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward."**

**Misthos: Pay for service!** Rev 22:12 *"Behold I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give to every man according to his work shall be"*

**b) "If any man's work shall be burned, (consumed wholly) he shall suffer loss: (xemio'o: detriment)**

(Nothing left of eternal value from which to "reward" him or her)

*but he himself shall be saved; (sozo: delivered) yet so as by fire."* (The foundation is still there!)

**3) God repeatedly warns us about the danger of putting too much focus on the Temporary!**

**Phi 3:18-19** *"many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, (apol'ia: waste! Mt. 7:13) whose God is their belly, (carnal appetites) and whose glory is in their shame, who mind (phroneo: regard) earthly things."*

**Conclusion:** God will often use life's hardships to "test" (prove and purify) our works while we still have time to rebuild for eternity! Ro. 12:1,2; 1 Peter 1:7; Isaiah 48:10,11; Job 23:10)

**Application:**

**1 Jn 2:28** *"abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. ... 3:3 "every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, (See 1 Jn 1:9) even as he is pure."*

**2 Cor 5:10-15** *"we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; ... Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; ... 14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: and that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."* (See Ro. 12:1,2)