



# Your Rewards Ceremony

January 22 & 25, 2026

## Ice Breaker

What's the most memorable award, recognition, or reward you've ever received, and what did you have to do to earn it?

## Key Verses

- 2 Corinthians 5:9-10
- Revelation 20:11
- Revelation 20:15
- Revelation 22:12
- Luke 6:23
- Matt 16:27
- Luke 14:14
- 1 Corinthians 3:8
- 1 Corinthians 3:11-15
- 1 Corinthians 4:5
- 1 John 2:28
- Romans 14:10-12
- Matthew 24:42-44
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- 2 Timothy 4:6-8

## Questions

1. How does the truth of the *Bema* ("raised platform") of Christ challenge or change your current understanding of your future?

2. Paul says his ambition was “to be pleasing” or “to be acceptable” to Christ because of the unavoidable event of the *Bema* of Christ. What would it look like practically for this to become your life's ambition?
3. Paul writes that we can build our life's work with either “gold, silver, precious stones” or “wood, hay, straw.” What do you think represents each type of building material in our daily choices?
4. How do you respond to the idea that living for Christ's eternal rewards purifies your motives for doing good works?
5. What “strongholds” or resistant arguments do you have about living for Christ's eternal rewards, and how might God's Word remove them?
6. If you knew Jesus was coming back today and you would stand before the *Bema* of Christ, what would you want to change about how you're living right now?
7. How can the reality of the *Bema* of Christ motivate us in areas like generosity, service, evangelism, and personal holiness?
8. The apostle John wrote about having “confidence” versus “shame” at Christ's coming. What would help you approach that day with confidence rather than regret?

## Life Application

This week, identify one specific area of your life where you can begin “building with gold, silver, and precious stones” rather than “wood, hay, and straw.” Choose one concrete action you can take this week that would be motivated by pleasing Christ and earning eternal rewards - whether it's serving someone who can't repay you, sharing the gospel, showing generosity, or pursuing holiness in a particular area. Make this choice with the *Bema* of Christ in mind.

## Key Takeaways

1. Every believer will stand before Christ at the *Bema* “raised platform” of Christ the King to receive rewards based on their deeds done in the body
2. Living to please Christ and earn eternal rewards should be the driving ambition of every Christian's life
3. We will either walk away from the *Bema* with a little or a lot of eternal rewards based on whether Christ evaluates our works as good or bad, rewardable or unrewardable

4. The *Bema* is unavoidable and will happen at the Rapture when we're taken to heaven - it could occur at any moment
5. Living for eternal rewards is a pure and godly motivation that God wants us to embrace, not resist

## Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the incredible truth that You want to reward us for living for You. Help us to tear down any strongholds of resistance we have to this truth and instead embrace it with joy and anticipation. Give us the same ambition that Paul had - to live lives that are acceptable and pleasing to You. Help us build our lives with gold, silver, and precious stones rather than wood, hay, and straw. May we live each day with the reality of the *Bema* of Christ motivating our choices, our service, and our love for others. We want to stand before You with confidence, not shame, carrying away many eternal rewards. Prepare our hearts for that day and help us to live worthy of the calling You've given us. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.