

September 13th – The Judgment Seat of Christ

“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.” (2 Cor. 5:10)

Have you ever stood before a judge? I’m not trying to dig up unpleasant memories but look back and remember how you felt. As you awaited his judgment, were you nervous? Excited? Uncertain? Many men and women have stood nervously before a judge as they awaited his judgment. You might say, “I’ve never stood before a judge, and I don’t intend to.” Hopefully you will never stand before a judge on this earth, but God’s Word assures all of us that we will stand before the Judge of heaven and earth.

Paul said that “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.” Paul was talking to believers in this passage, but that doesn’t mean it will only be Christians who will stand in judgment before Jesus. Hebrews 9:27 tells us that “it is appointed to man once to die and after that the judgment.” No one will be exempt from standing before Christ. Some have called the judgment of unbelievers “the Great White Throne Judgment.” The title is taken from Revelation – “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it...anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (20:11, 15).

For those who have trusted Christ, they won’t have to be afraid of being cast into hell. Yet, that doesn’t mean that believers will escape judgment. The amount of our heavenly reward will be determined by the work we have done for Christ on this earth. Let me be clear – we gain heaven ONLY through faith in Jesus, but the amount of our eternal reward will be determined by our works. For that reason, we are wise to lay up treasure in heaven “where moth and rust do not destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal” (Matt. 6:20).