

Deep Practice Discipleship Guide

Sermon Title: The Judgment of Believers

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:6–10

1. Opening Exercise – Sharing the Journey

Begin with a time of honest reflection and sharing. Invite each person to talk about how their week went in terms of discipleship:

- Did you follow through on the commitment you made last week?
- What went well? What was challenging?
- Did God surprise you or teach you something in the process?

👉 **Reminder for leaders:** This is not about perfection—it’s about growth. The key is practicing discipleship together, supporting one another, and celebrating small steps forward. Encourage honesty, not performance.

2. Sermon Overview – “The Judgment of Believers”

Paul “zooms out” in 2 Corinthians 5:6–10 to help us see the final destination: the judgment seat of Christ.

Key Points:

1. Where Paul Finds Himself (vv. 6–9):

- Confident in Christ’s grace.
- Walking by faith, not sight (**2 Corinthians 5:7**).
- Longing for the Lord’s presence.
- Desiring to please Him (**2 Corinthians 5:9**).

2. Where Paul is Going (v. 10):

- “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.”
- For unbelievers: eternal consequence — **hell is real**.
- For believers: salvation secure in Christ, but our lives are disclosed.

3. The Judgment of Believers:

- Our sin already judged at the cross:
 - Declared guilty in Adam (**Romans 5:12**).
 - Redemption made available at the cross (God's grace).
 - Redemption made real when we received Christ in saving faith.
- At judgment our status is disclosed and declared, not determined.
 - **Matthew 25:21** – “Well done, good and faithful servant.”
 - **Revelation 3:5** – “I will confess his name before my Father.”
- That's why Paul can be confident as he contemplates judgment.

4. Recompense (Receiving What Is Due):

- Biblical meaning: deeds done in the body, good or bad.
- What happens between coming to faith and judgment matters.
- Our actions are the natural fruit of faith (apple tree illustration).
- **1 Corinthians 3:12–15** – works revealed by fire:
 - The good will be rewarded.
 - The worthless exposed (though not salvific).
- Rewards in Scripture:
 - **Crown of Life** – **James 1:12; Revelation 2:10** (for those who endure trials).
 - **Crown of Righteousness** – **2 Timothy 4:8** (for those who love Christ's appearing).
 - **Crown of Glory** – **1 Peter 5:4** (for faithful shepherds).
 - **Imperishable Crown** – **1 Corinthians 9:25** (for disciplined perseverance).
- “Well done, good and faithful servant” – **Matthew 25:21, 23**.
- But whatever we receive, it is not for pride:
 - **Revelation 4:10–11** – crowns are cast before Jesus in worship.

Big Idea:

The final judgment for believers is not about deciding our salvation, but about disclosing our faith, declaring our belonging to Christ, and rewarding a life lived to please Him.

Heart Moment:

Imagine Jesus saying, “*Well done, good and faithful servant*” (Matthew 25:21). Every hidden act of love and faithfulness will be remembered.

Hands (Application):

- Live Confidently – not arrogant, but secure in Christ’s grace.
- Walk by Faith – take steps of trust when you cannot see (**2 Corinthians 5:7**).
- Desire God’s Presence – hold lightly to this world, long for the next.
- Aim to Please the Lord – make your daily life a living testimony (**2 Corinthians 5:9**).

👉 Ask each day: “*Will what I’m doing today matter when I stand before Jesus?*”

3. Discussion Questions (Bloom’s Taxonomy)**Remember & Understand**

1. How does Paul describe his attitude in 2 Corinthians 5:6–9?
2. What is the difference between the judgment of unbelievers and the judgment of believers?

Apply

3. Why is it important that our judgment is disclosure, not determination?
4. How might daily life look different if we asked, “*Will this matter before Jesus?*”

Analyze

5. In what ways do our works reflect the fruit of faith?
6. How do the various “crowns” mentioned in Scripture encourage believers to persevere?

Evaluate

7. Paul lived with confidence because of Christ. What keeps us from living with that same confidence?
8. Do you find yourself more motivated by fear of judgment or hope of reward? Why?

Create

9. Imagine yourself standing before Christ. What do you hope He says?

10. Write a short “life aim statement” for this week that reflects your desire to live for what will last.

4. Storying Exercise

Passage: Matthew 25:14–30 (The Parable of the Talents)

Instructions:

- Tell the story in your own words (without reading it directly at first).
- Ask the group to retell it together.
- Then read the passage aloud.

Discussion:

1. How does this parable connect to Paul’s teaching in 2 Corinthians 5?
 2. What do the faithful servants hear from the Master?
 3. What does this story teach us about responsibility, reward, and readiness?
 4. How might this story shape the way we invest our time, gifts, and resources this week?
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5. Deep Practice Commitment – Looking Ahead

Close by inviting each person to write down a **specific commitment** for the coming week. It may be directly connected to the sermon—or it may be another area of discipleship they are working on (prayer, service, forgiveness, generosity, etc.).

Encourage them to:

- Be **specific** (What will you do? When? How?)
- Be **realistic** (One step is better than a vague wish.)
- Be **accountable** (Share it with the group so others can encourage you.)

Examples:

- Each morning, ask: “*Will what I’m doing today matter before Jesus?*”
- Practice one hidden act of love this week without seeking recognition.

- Review your weekly schedule and adjust one activity to better “aim to please the Lord.”

6. Closing Prayer

Pray together, thanking Jesus that our salvation is secure in Him, asking for courage to live with eternity in view, and for faith to walk in ways that please Him this week.