

**Eternal Judgement**

**Lesson Number 18**

**Hebrews 6:1-3 (KJV)**

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of **resurrection of the dead**, and of eternal judgment. 3And this will we do, if God permit.

Today, we will be finishing our series on the Doctrines of Christ. As we’ve gone through this study, we have covered the basic doctrines of Christ as listed in Hebrews 6. We have covered a lot of areas but the things we did cover are things that Christians need to be rooted and grounded in.

There was a time that God revealed the calling on my life to the five-fold ministry (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher. He even spoke to me at that time and said, **“Build foundations in the people’s lives so that they may be strong and stand and not fall.”**

Throughout our study, not only have we covered these doctrines of Christ but we have also exposed some traditions that are carried down through our churches. Some of you have learned truths that you did not know before.

Last week I taught about the rapture or the catching away of the dead in Christ and of those who will be “alive and remain” on earth at that moment. I shared with you, what I believe to be, revelation from God concerning how the rapture will occur.

Today we are going to talk about ETERNAL JUDGEMENT.

Unfortunately, when we think of the word judgement, we automatically think of something horrible and judgement for sins.

There will be judgement for those who did not accept Christ as their Lord and Savior but there **will also be a judgement on believers**.

**Romans 14:10 (NLT)**
10 So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

**2 Corinthians 5:10 (NLT)**
10 For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the **good or evil we have done** in this earthly body.

**1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (NLT)**

11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. 12 **Anyone who builds on that foundation** may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. 13 But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value. 14 If the work survives, that **builder will receive a reward**. 15 But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder **will be saved**, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

Jesus died to forgive us from our sins but what happens after we are saved? Did you continue on in your evil ways? Did you try to live a life that was holy and pleasing to the Lord?

As we walk with the Lord in this life, we should become more and more like Him. We should have **no will of our own** after becoming a Christian.

We should be, as Paul was, a **“bond servant”** of Christ, a slave by Paul’s own choosing.

**Matthew 6:19-21 (NLT)**

19 “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

There will be people who get saved and then they NEVER go any further. If they have never built up any treasure for themselves in Heaven, everything else will burned up.

**How do we store up treasures in Heaven?**

We follow after the Lord and DO what He says to do. The majority of Christians sit back and wait for someone else to do what they are called to.

I’m sure all of you in this class understand that we are saved by God’s GRACE and not by our WORKS. This is a true statement.

However, **once we are saved**, we should be doing what the Lord wants us to do.

The words were seen many years ago on a sign north of Erick, Oklahoma:

***Tis only one life***

***Twill soon be past***

***Only the things done for Christ***

***Will last***

**James 2:14-26 (NLT)**

14 What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? 15 Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing,
16 and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? 17 **So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough**. **Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.** 18 Now someone may argue, “Some people have faith; others have good deeds.” But I say, “**How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds?** I will **show you my faith by my good deeds.**” 19 You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. 20 How foolish! Can’t you see that **faith without good deeds is useless**? 21 Don’t you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be **right with God by his actions** when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see, **his faith and his actions worked together**. His **actions made his faith complete**. 23 And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” He was even called the friend of God. 24 So you see, **we are shown to be right with God by what we do**, not by faith alone. 25 Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be **right with God by her actions** when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. 26 Just as the body is dead without breath, so also **faith is dead without good works**.

Those people who do nothing after being saved, will be saved but will barely make it into heaven and they will have nothing there.

We need to realize that Jesus will not condemn us. We make the choice on whether we serve the Lord or not.

**John 5:24 (NLT)**
24  “I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They **will never be condemned** for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

These people will not be condemned for their sins, they will simply make it to heaven and have nothing to show because they did not do anything for the Lord.

**1 Peter 4:4-5 (NLT)**

4 Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you. 5 But remember that they will have to face God, who will judge everyone, both the living and the dead.

There are five future and separate judgements.

1. **The Judgment Seat of Christ.**

The first of these will be the judgment of the believer’s works, called “The Judgment Seat of Christ.”

1. **The Judgment of Regathered Israel.**

In Daniel 12:1 this judgment is called “The Time of Jacob’s Trouble.” It will be the punishment of the Jews for their disobedience to God and their rejection of Jesus Christ. During the Tribulation Period and after the close of the present Age of Grace, Israel will pay for her sins, being afflicted with unprecedented misery and woe.

1. **The Judgment of the Living Nations.**

At the end of the Tribulation Period, after Israel has been judged, the nations of earth will be judged by Christ and His Church. This judgment will not be against individuals but **against nations** for their **treatment of the Jewish people**.

**Joel 3:1, 2**

“For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land”.

1. **The Judgment of Fallen Angels.**

This is the final judgment against Satan and other fallen angels who will be judged with him. Immediately after the one thousand years of the Kingdom Age, Satan and his hosts will meet their doom.

**Jude 1:6 (NLT)**

6 And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment.

1. **The Judgment of the Unbelieving Dead.**

This is called the Great White Throne Judgment. After the casting of Satan into Hell, the wicked dead will be raised to receive the final sentence of condemnation. **No believer** will be judged at that day as the final judgment is reserved for all who rejected the Lord Jesus Christ on earth.

**Revelation 20:11-15 (NLT)**

11 And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. 12 I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. 14 Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. 15 And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

This is almost as if God is giving all of these people the benefit of the doubt and He looks to see if their names are in the book of Life.

When we are born, our name is in the book of Life but if we do not accept Christ, our names are blotted out.

**Psalm 69:28 (NLT)**
Erase their names from the Book of Life; don’t let them be counted among the righteous.

**Revelation 3:5 (NLT)**
All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that they are mine.

### The Judgment Seat of Christ

The first future judgment derives its name from two passages where the term “Judgment Seat of Christ” appears:

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ (Romans 14:10).

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10).

This judgment cannot be confused with either of the other judgments because the Holy Spirit used a Greek word to describe the Judgment Seat of Christ that is peculiar and different from the Greek words used in connection with other judgments. Here the word used is bema. It appears in classical Greek to identify the judge’s seat in the arena of the Olympic games. The bema was the seat whereon the judge sat, not to punish contestants, but to present awards to the victors. When Christians stand before the bema of Christ, it will be for the express purpose of being rewarded according to their works. There is no idea of inflicting punishment.

**Who is the Judge?**

**John 5:22 (NLT)**
22 In addition, the Father judges no one. Instead, he has given the Son absolute authority to judge,

**Acts 17:31 (NLT)**

For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.”

In this sense every judgment throne can be considered as the judgment seat of Christ, for, as the resurrected Son of God, He has been appointed by the Father to be the Judge of all. However, there is only one ***bema****,*a throne erected for Christ for the **purpose of awarding the prizes or crowns to the victorious saints.**

We are not judges. Therefore we have no right to judge or to despise our brother. It is not possible for any of us to judge righteously and justly because we do not know the hearts of each other.

**Romans 14:10 (NLT)**

So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

**Matthew 7:1 (NLT)**
“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged.

**1 Corinthians 3:13 (NLT)**

But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder **has done**. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value.

Jesus shared the **PARABLE OF THE TALENTS** with his disciples to show the importance of **WORKS**.

**Matthew 25:14-30 (NLT)**

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. 15 He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in **proportion to their abilities**. He then left on his trip. 16 “The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. 17 The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. 18 But the servant who received the one bag of silver **dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money**. 19 “After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. 20 The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’ 21 “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’ 22 “The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’ 23 “The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’ 24  “Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. 25 I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’ 26 “But the master replied, ‘You **wicked and lazy servant**! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, 27 why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’
28 “Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. 29 To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. 30 Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Notice in verse 15, the servants were entrusted with the money “in proportion to their abilities.”

God will NEVER call you to something that you are not capable of doing!

***“God does not call the equipped, He equips the called!”***

**Crowns that Believers Can Receive**

**Revelation 3:11 (NLT)**

I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away **your crown**.

**Revelation 22:12 (KJV)**

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

The Judgment Seat of Christ will be a **crowning day** for those Christians who will receive rewards for their works. This will take place after the rapture during the seven years the Church is with the Lord during the great tribulation.

1. ***The Incorruptible Crown****.*

**1 Corinthians 9:25 (KJV)**
And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

Paul is comparing us to athletes.

**“Before the contest each participant practiced self-discipline, being temperate in all things. There were doubtless many pleasures and pastimes that the athletes might have entered into and enjoyed, but they denied themselves these things in order to do their best. A crown awaited the victor. The incorruptible crown for the Christian is the victor’s crown for those who keep under the body and bring it into subjection. There are certain pleasures, worldly amusements, manners of dress, and uses of cosmetics that interfere with one’s progress in spreading the Gospel and winning the lost to Christ. If I live victoriously over all things, “making no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof,” I shall gain the reward for a victorious life which is the Incorruptible Crown. If an athlete must subject himself to many months of rigid discipline and training to obtain a corruptible crown, how much more should we bring our bodies into subjection for a crown that is incorruptible!”**

1. ***The Crown of Rejoicing.***

**1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 (KJV)**

For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? 20 For ye are our glory and joy.

This is the soul-winner’s crown.

We will receive crowns for leading people to Christ and even just sowing seeds into their lives.

Our greatest reward though, will be seeing who will be in Heaven because of our prayers, gifts, preaching, and personal work.

1. ***The Crown of Righteousness.***

**2 Timothy 4:8 (KJV)**

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

We get a crown for being excited about Christ’s return!

1. ***The Crown of Life.***

**James 1:12 (NLT)**

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

**Revelation 2:10 (NLT)**
Don’t be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life.

Not all of us will be martyrs but for those of us that are, they will receive this crown of life. The Bible even tells us there is a special place for them in Heaven.

Jesus said not to worry if we do have to give our lives for Him. He will be there with us through it.

1. ***The Crown of Glory.***

**1 Peter 5:2-5 (NLT)**

Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. 3 Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. 4 And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor. 5 In the same way, you younger men must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, serve each other in humility, for “God opposes the proud but favors the humble.”

This crown is for those called to the Five Fold ministry gift (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher).

Paul went through a lot in his ministry. God assigned one of Satan’s angels to stay around Paul and to cause him all kinds of trouble. This angel was Paul’s “thorn in the flesh.” Besides all the bad things that happened to him, he said above all that was the “care of the churches.”

Caring for God’s flock is not an easy task.

**2 Corinthians 11:22-28 (NLT)**
Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. 23 Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. 24 Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. 26 I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. 27 I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. 28 **Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches.**

If there is to be joy and rejoicing for those who receive the crowns, surely there will be disappointment and sorrow for those who will not receive them. God keeps an exact record of the sins and works of His children. The record includes all of our motives and acts, our response to or our rejection of God’s call to faithful stewardship and service. When an unfaithful Christian hears and sees the true record of his unfaithfulness; when he is reminded of the large sum of money he left behind, a portion of which could have been given to the spreading of the Gospel; when he sees how the cause of Christ has suffered because of his neglect and indifference when a Christian who has wronged his brother and never repented of his sin sees that ugly deed dragged out of its hiding place, will that Christian be unmoved by the revealing of his empty and wasted life while on earth? Will there be no regret, no shame, no consternation? Listen once again to God’s immortal declaration: “If a man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer . . .”

The story was told of a great fire in a city apartment house. The tenants had all been led to safety with the exception of one family on one of the upper floors. The mother, driven to frenzy by the terror that accompanied the flaming and smoke-filled room, leaped to safety into a fireman’s net. But it was discovered that, in her befogged and delirious mind, she completely forgot her children who perished in the flames. She was saved as by fire, but she suffered great loss. May God grant that we should strive to labor in the light of that hour when all of our work shall be judged by Jesus Christ Himself and we shall be rewarded accordingly.

The Judgment Seat of Christ seems a necessity to the writer. Think of the believers, all members of the body of Christ, who are divided because of differences. In organizations, in churches, and in families I have seen Christians who are not on speaking terms. People who were at one time very close and intimate friends are now separated and a bitter feeling exists between them. Each blames the separation on the other, and they continue on, trying to serve the Lord, but their difference has not been adjusted. Now if our Lord returns before there is a reconciliation of such Christians here on earth, it is necessary that they get right with each other somewhere, for certainly they cannot continue on forever in holding hatred and animosity in their hearts. Heaven knows no such actions. Hatred and unforgiveness is sin. Yet there is no sin in Heaven. Hence the necessity of the Judgment Seat of Christ.

The Judgment Seat of Christ is necessary because not one believer has received his reward for any service he has rendered in this life. Often, and frequently at funerals, we hear it said that the departed one has gone to his eternal reward. This is not Scripturally correct. The departed saints are with the Lord, but not one has received his reward as yet. We are not rewarded one by one at death. None of the disciples nor the apostles has received his rewards yet, nor will he until Jesus comes back and all saints are gathered together. Jesus said to the Pharisee in whose house He had dined: “Thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just” (Luke 14:14).

Dear Christian, “Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58). “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love” (Hebrews 6:10). “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Jesus Christ” (Colossians 3:23, 24).

One final word! “And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming” (1 John 2:28). Ashamed at His coming! What a sorry closing chapter for any believer’s life! How ashamed we will be if we are engaged in dishonest business, unclean conversation, or unholy living. Let us, with singleness of purpose, abandon ourselves to His perfect will for our lives so that we may hear Him say to us: “Well done.”

https://bible.org/seriespage/6-future-judgment-believer

**Daniel 12:1 (NLT)**
1  “At that time Michael, the archangel who stands guard over your nation, will arise. Then there will be a time of anguish greater than any since nations first came into existence. But at that time every one of your people whose name is written in the book will be rescued.