

ESCHATOLOGY (30)

From Scripture, we may conclude that there are at least ten areas of judgment for the N.T. believer:

(Area of Judgment #1) - A believer will be judged on the basis of his/her works .

This is plainly stated in different passages that have to do with a judgment of the believer— I Cor. 3:13; II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 2:23.

There are at least two prerequisites for works that would be rewarded:

Prerequisite #1 – The works must be in accordance with revealed Scripture. II Tim. 2:5

Prerequisite #2 – The works must be done with the motive of honoring God.

I Cor. 4:5; Matt. 6:1-4; Col. 3:22-25. This was even Jesus' motive— John 17:4.

(Area of Judgment #2) - A believer will be judged on the basis of his/her words .

Many texts indicate that Jesus Christ will hold one accountable for what he/she said— Matt. 12:36-37; Luke 12:2-3; Gal. 5:19-20; Eph. 4:29-32; James 3:1. This would include words: **1)** Careless—Matt. 12:36-37; **2)** Hypocritical—Luke 12:1-3; **3)** Anger outbursts—Gal. 5:20-21; **4)** Dissension words—Gal. 5:20-21; **5)** Unwholesome words—Eph. 4:29; **6)** Slandorous words—Eph. 4:31; **7)** Filthy words—Eph. 5:4; **8)** False words—Eph. 4:25; **9)** Gossipy words—I Peter 3:10; **10)** Faulty doctrine—James 3:1.

(Area of Judgment #3) - A believer will be judged on the basis of his/her worship .

Forsaking fellowship with God's people at church will cost one rewards—Heb. 10:25; 13:17. Worship must be decent, orderly and reverent.

(Area of Judgment #4) - A believer will be judged on the basis of conformity to God's will .

Aspect #1 – God's will is specifically revealed in writing—i.e. “this is the will of God.”

1 Thess. 4:3

Aspect #2 – God's will is personally revealed in Spirit-leading. Must yield, not quench or grieve.

Eph. 4:30; I Thess. 5:19

(Area of Judgment #5) - A believer will be judged on the basis of his/her witnessing .

Jesus told the church in Philadelphia that they would be rewarded because they did not deny His name—Rev. 3:8. They testified that Jesus was God, Jesus was the Jewish Messiah and the Savior.

(Area of Judgment #6) - A believer will be judged on the basis of his/her thoughts .

Many texts indicate that Jesus Christ does judge thoughts—Heb. 4:12-13; Rev. 2:23. Even Paul was continually working on his own thought life—II Cor. 10:5. Award winners think on things right, true, pure, lovely, good and praiseworthy (Phil. 4:8).

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(Area of Judgment #7) - A believer will be judged on the basis of his/her conscience .

Paul used his own conscience as a basis for judging himself, but also realized that one day God would judge this area—I Cor. 4:4; II Cor. 5:11. Those who made adjustments when under conviction to keep the conscience good, clean and true will be rewarded.

(Area of Judgment #8) - A believer will be judged on the basis of his/her self-discipline .

This is exactly what Paul says in I Cor. 9:27 concerning himself. Those who choose to live a life that is not disciplined and continually yields to the flesh will forfeit rewards.

(Area of Judgment #9) - A believer will be judged on the basis of his/her money .

God keeps track of what we give to His work and the sacrifice behind it. Those who give to Him faithfully do lay up treasures in heaven—Gal. 6:6-10; I Tim. 6:17-19; Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4.

(Area of Judgment #10) - A believer will be judged on the basis of his/her faithfulness .

It would appear as though in order to qualify for rewards, one must be faithful until the end of his/her Christian life—Rev. 1:10; II Tim. 4:7; I Cor. 9:24. There are many texts that indicate one's faithfulness will be assessed one day—Matt. 24:45; Matt 25:23; Luke 16:10; I Cor. 4:2.

We may conclude that these ten areas will be critical areas of determining reward or loss at the Bema Seat Judgment.

Q-17f - What will be the outcome of the judgment of N.T. believers?

It has been well said that the judgment seat of Christ will be either a time of triumph for the believer or a time of tragedy for a believer.

The main outcome of this judgment may be summarized under two categories:

- 1) Reception of Reward for the believer.
- 2) Deprivation of Reward for the believer.

Salvation from eternal punishment is not in question for the believer in Jesus Christ because even those believers deprived of any reward “shall be saved, yet so as through fire” (I Cor. 3:15).