

Course taught by:

Pastor Vincent Sawyer

Faith Bible Institute  
105-01 37th Avenue  
Corona, NY 11368

## VI. THE BEMA SEAT and MARRIAGE SUPPER

### A. THE BEMA SEAT

(The Judgment Seat of Christ)

Romans 14:10; II Corinthians 5:10; I Corinthians 3:9-15

1. The **Meaning** of the Judgment Seat:

--The Greek word "bema" speaks of an elevated chair at the ancient athletic games, upon which the "president or umpire of the arena" sat. From here, he observed the games and rewarded the winners. It was never used of a judicial bench.

2. The **Time** of the Judgment Seat: Apparently immediately after the Rapture/Resurrection (Lk. 21:36; II Tim. 4:1; Rev. 22:12)

3. The **Judge** of the Judgment Seat: Jesus Christ  
(II Cor. 5:10; Jn. 5:22; Rom. 14:10; Rom. 2:16; Rev. 22:12)

4. The **Subjects** of the Judgment Seat: All believers (of all time)  
(Rom. 14:10; II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 22:12)

5. The **Purpose** of the Judgment Seat: It is not to determine eternal destiny, but eternal rewards

--It is not a judgment of sins and wickedness (Heb. 10:17)

--It is a time to determine the quality and acceptability of service done by believers (cp. Rev. 19:8)

I Cor. 3:13-14      (*"Every man's work shall be made manifest . . . he shall receive a reward"*)

II Cor. 5:10      (*". . . the things done . . . whether good or bad"* - lit. foul or worthless)

I Cor. 9:27      (*"castaway"* = disqualified [for a prize])

Christ will evaluate our works based on motive (why we did it) and method (how we ran the race)

6. The **Rewards** of the Judgment Seat:

a. Rewards **forfeited** (I Cor. 3:15; Rev. 3:11)

b. Rewards **received**

The New Testament describes various "crowns" ("stephanos" - victor's wreaths, awarded for the runners of a race, etc.)

5 areas worthy of the "stephanos":

1) **Incorruptible** crown (I Cor. 9:25)

Awarded for mastery over the flesh (the old man)

2) Crown of **rejoicing** (I Thes. 2:19)

Awarded for leading others to Christ

3) Crown of **life** (James 1:12)

Awarded for overcoming trials

4) Crown of **righteousness** (II Tim. 4:8)

Awarded for loving Christ's appearing  
(Rapture)

5) Crown of **glory** (I Pet. 5:4)

Awarded for feeding the flock of God

## B. THE MARRIAGE SUPPER

(The wedding dinner of the Lamb and His Bride)

Basic Bible Teachings about the Metaphor -

### "The Bride of Christ"

- 1) **Election:** The Father chose a Bride for His Son (Jn. 6:37, 39, 44, 65).
- 2) **Engagement:** The down payment of the Holy Spirit has been given to all believers with a promise of Christ's return to receive His purchased possession (Eph. 1:13-14).
- 3) **Rapture:** The Son is coming back to receive only His Bride unto Himself (Mt. 25:1-13).
- 4) **Wedding:** The Beginning of Eternity with Christ (Rev. 19:7-9, 21:9).

1. The **Time** of the Marriage:

After Christ receives His Bride (immediately after the Rapture - Mt. 25:10) but before Christ returns to earth (before the Return - Rev. 19:7, 8).

2. The **Place** of the Marriage:

In Heaven (Rev. 19:7 & 14)

3. The **Participants** of the Marriage:

Those who belong to Christ throughout all ages - Old Testament & New Testament saints (Lk. 13:28-29; Lk. 14:15-24; Mt. 25:10)