

Lesson 12: If Jesus Died for My sin then what Judgment are Christians to face?

That is a good question and I'll seek to answer it by covering a bigger subject – The **Judgment Seat of Christ**; Also called the **Bema** seat.

Jesus will one day sit on the Bema seat to examine the life and works of Christians. Wow! That can be a scary thought.

The subject of Judgment is clear in the scriptures. Let's begin with...

Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

In fact there are several judgments mentioned in the Bible. This list is not exhaustive but it give a good idea.

1. The judgment of our **sin** on the Cross through Jesus death. (2 Corinthians 5.21)
2. The believer's **self-Judgment**. 1 Co 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. In a sense we judge ourselves at communion.
3. The judgment of believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ - the subject of this lesson.
4. The Judgment of the **Nations** Matthew 25.32 – the sheep and the goats.
5. The judgment of **Israel** Ezekiel 20.30-44 (Many other passages speak of this).
6. The judgment of **Angels** Jude 6 – they are reserved in darkness waiting...
7. The judgment of the **wicked dead**, Rev 20.11-15 – The Great white throne judgment.

Let go to that passage for a moment.

At the great white throne:

- All **unbelievers** will be present.
- No **believers** will be present.
- Unbelievers will be judged according to the books, and the book of Life. The Book of life will prove their rejection of the light – their **name** does not appear.

- The books of records will present the **evidence** of their evil works. Their degree of punishment will be determined by God.

So we can rejoice that believers are in no danger of eternal judgment in the Lake of Fire. That is good news. Yet that does not mean we will never stand for judgement.

1. A description of the Judgment Seat of Christ
  - a. 2 Co 5:10 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.
  - b. It is generally believed that this judgment will take place **in the air**. 1 Thessalonians 4.13-17
2. When is the Bema seat judgment?
  - a. At the **first** resurrection. *Lk 14:14 And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."*
  - b. At the **Second Coming** of Christ. *Mt 16:27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. Re 22:12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.*
  - c. **Pinpointing** the time is not possible.
3. Who will be judged at the Bema?
  - a. **Believers** and only **believers** will be judged. The personal pronoun "we" included the speaker or writer in all cases for example... *2 Co 5:10 For we must all appear... Ro 14:10 ...For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*
  - b. Rest assured that believers will be judged.
4. What is being judged at the Bema?
  - a. What will not be judged?
    - i. Our **destiny**. The Bible is very plain in that famous passage in John 3.16-18 that the salvation issue and eternal destiny are determined in Life not after earthly life. *Jn 3:16 ...that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life...18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned;*

- ii. Our **past sins**. The purpose is not to judge sin committed before salvation. Those sins were judged on the cross. *Heb 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.* *Heb 10:17 then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."* *Ps 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. Is 38:17 ...For You have cast all my sins behind Your back.*
- iii. Our **present sins**. The purpose is not to judge sins since salvation. *1 John 1.9 If we confess...*

5. What will be judged?

- a. Our **works** will be judged. The purpose of the Judgment seat is to judge our works; to see what we did with our one, two or five talents (Matt 25.14-30). *1 Co 3:13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it.. Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.*
- b. Our **words** will be judged. *Mt 12:36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."*
- c. Our **thoughts** will be judged. *Mt 15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. 20 These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."* *Mt 5:28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*
- d. Our **secrets** will be judged. *Ro 2:15 ...their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) 16 in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.*
- e. Our **motives** will be judged.
  - i. Correct ones: *2 Co 5:14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.*

- ii. Wrong ones: Vain glory; self-glory. *Pr 25:27 ...So to seek one's own glory is not glory. Lk 14:11 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*
6. How will God judge at the Bema?
    - a. By **Fire**. 1 Co 3:13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.
    - b. In **public**. That was the whole point of the Bema; to receive public praise and reward. Public judgment will do away with the thoughts of favoritism.
    - c. *Ga 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap... 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*
  7. What will be the results of the Bema?
    - a. For the works that remain; there will be rewards. For the works burned up there will be loss. *1 Co 3:15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*
    - b. We are not told how the loss is felt.
    - c. **Fireproof** works – gold, silver precious stones... in our character holiness, honesty, integrity, faithfulness etc. In our deeds: love, sacrifice, service, compassion, mercy generosity etc.
    - d. **Combustible** works – Wood, hay, stubble. All sin, greed, self-interest, acts of self-promotion; good works done to manipulate, wrong motives.
  8. Preparing for the Judgment seat.
    - a. By diligent **devotion** to Christ giving him first place. Bible reading, meditation and prayer. Ps 119.
    - b. Constant **Communion** with the Lord and self-examination.
    - c. Prompt **confession** of sin
    - d. Faithful walk in the **light**. Let's go there to 1 John 1 and let's read.