

## WE SHALL ALL STAND BEFORE GOD

Texts: Matthew 12:34-37; Acts 24:14, 15

Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

The Bible tells us that God inhabits eternity: Isaiah 57:15: "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

We all are racing at break-neck speed toward eternity. Dr. Bob Jones Sr. said, "The greatest truth that ever changed my life was when I realized I had to live somewhere forever." It would serve all of us well if we would keep that in mind.

### **I. ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN SHALL STAND BEFORE GOD.**

John 5:22: "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son."

Romans 14:10-12

II Corinthians 5:1-11

The phrase "judgment seat," is taken from the Greek word *Bema*. The *Bema* was the place where the awards were given to athletes who competed in the Panhellenic Games of Ancient Greece, specifically, Isthmian, Nemean, Pythian and the most famous, Olympiad. We understand that Paul was very familiar with these games from the comparison that he makes in I Corinthians 9:24-27. He said he was running and fighting with discipline that he might win. In Philippians 3:12-14 we see a similar comparison.

This is not a judgment unto condemnation. We who are saved shall not come into that judgment (John 5:24). There is a clear demarcation line between the judgment of converted and unconverted: John 3:36: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

The Bible speaks of five crowns that will be given at the Judgment Seat of Christ:

- **The Crown of Righteousness**

II Timothy 4:8

This is the crown given to the Christian that is looking for and longing for the Lord's return. These are those who pray: "...Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).

- **The Soul Winner's Crown**

I Thessalonians 2:19-20

This is also called the Crown of Rejoicing because in Heaven rejoicing breaks out over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:7, 10, 23-24). Proverbs 11:30.

- **The Incorruptible Crown**

I Corinthians 9:25; II Timothy 2:3-5

These are those who have maintained service unto the Lord in holiness and uncompromising integrity.

- **The Crown of Glory**

I Peter 5:1-4

This is the crown given to those who minister to the Flock, i.e., the Church in true doctrine with Holy Spirit power. This would be inclusive of pastors, missionaries, evangelists and teachers.

- **The Crown of Life**

James 1:12; Revelation 2:10

This will be the crown given to those who suffer for the cause of Christ. This is also called the martyr's crown.

I Corinthians 3:11-15 explains what happens at the Judgment Seat of Christ. In anticipation of this time, John said in I John 2:28: "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." John 15:4, 5 teaches us to not be discouraged, for the only way we can do anything that brings glory to God is to abide in Him. Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

## **II. ALL OF THE LOST SOULS SHALL STAND BEFORE GOD.**

Revelation 20:11-15

Revelation 21:8

### **A. Consider the Reality of Death**

Luke 16:19, 23

Death is coming to one and all. Hebrews 9:27: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

### **B. Consider the Variation of Torments**

Luke 16:23

1. Loss of Identity: Luke 16:19
2. Fire: Luke 16:24; Mark 9:44, 46, 48.
3. Memories: Luke 16:25
4. No Escape: Luke 16:26; Revelation 14:11

### **C. Consider the Power of the Gospel**

Luke 16:27-31

Luke 24:25-27: "Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself." I Corinthians 15:3, 4: "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures." Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Romans 10:9-17

**Conclusion:**

We shall all stand before God one day. We shall stand alone in judgment. There will be no one else to blame. Those who are saved will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. Those who are not saved must stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgment of God.