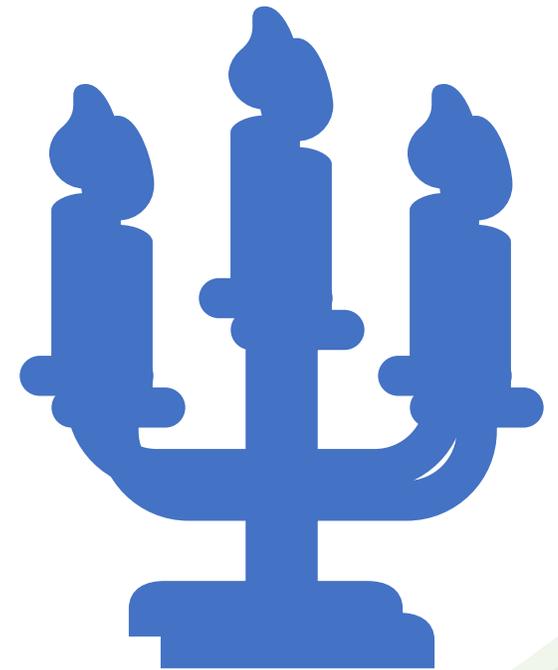


# THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST



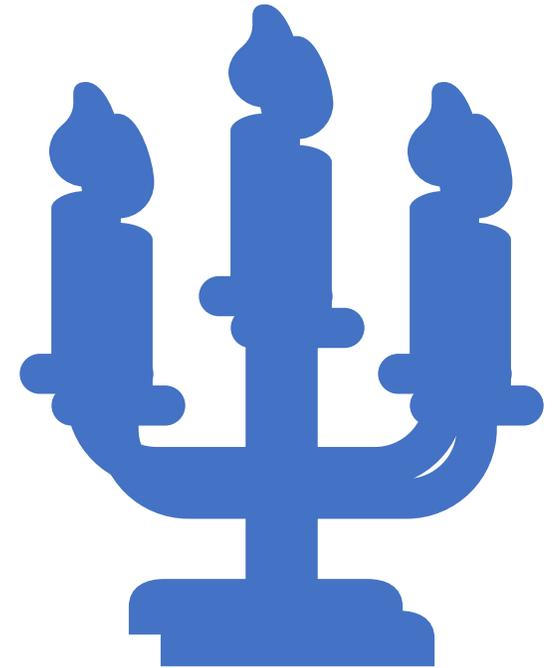
# What is the Judgment seat of Christ

The judgment seat of Christ involves a time in the future when believers will give an account of themselves to Christ. This is the plain teaching of Scripture: “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad” ([2 Corinthians 5:10](#)). The warning is to Christians, not unbelievers. As Jesus taught in His [parable](#), the king is going to return, at which time he will require an account from his servants ([Luke 19:11–26](#)).



# What is Judgment?

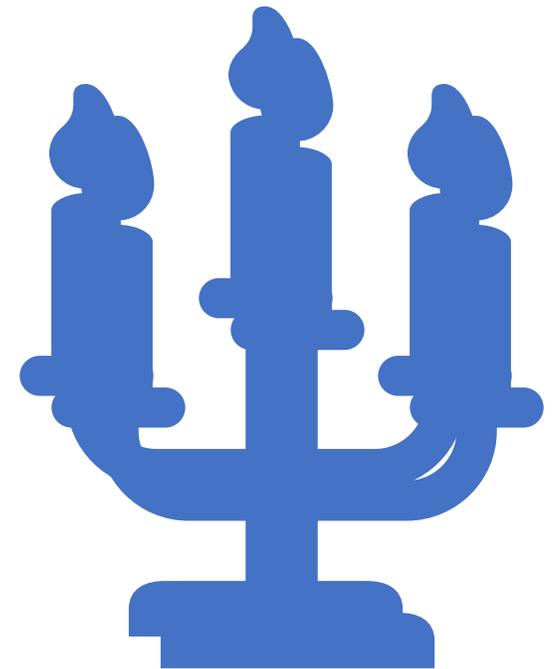
*krísis* *krínō*, "to separate, distinguish, judge") – judgment, emphasizing its qualitative aspect that can apply either to a positive verdict (for *righteousness*) – or more commonly, a "negative" verdict which *condemns* the nature of sin that brings it on.



# What is Judgment?

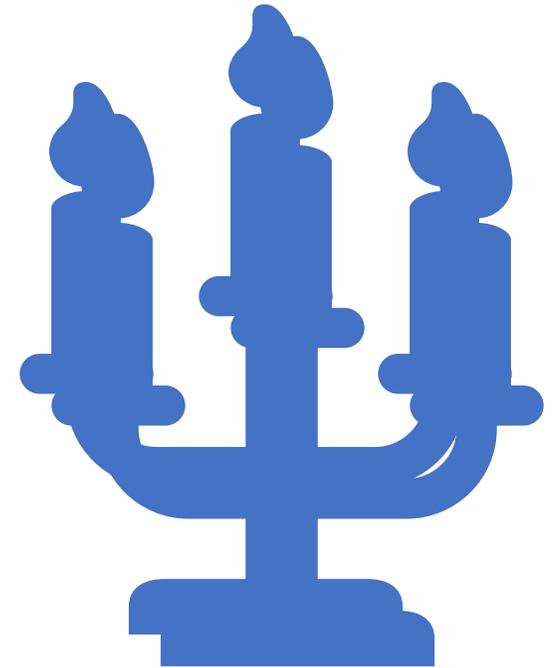
*Kríma*- stresses the *results* that go with a particular judgment (of blessing or pain depending on the choice).

*diakrínō* "thoroughly back-and-forth," – properly, investigate (judge) *thoroughly* – literally, judging "back-and-forth" which can either (positively) refer to close-reasoning (discrimination) or negatively "over-judging" (going too far, vacillating). Only the context indicates which sense is meant.



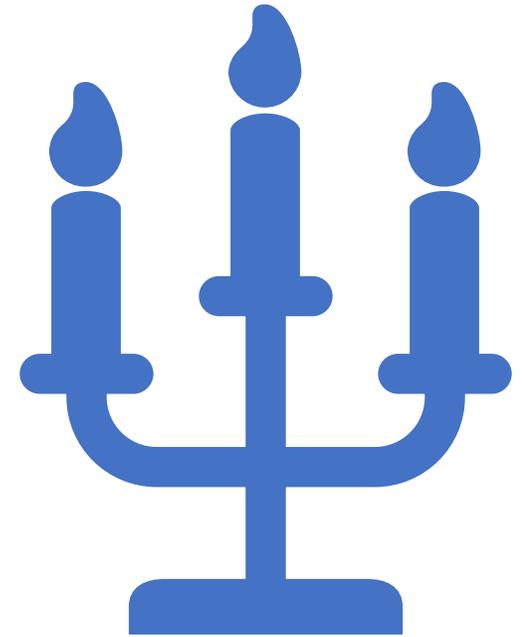
# **What is difference between the Great White Throne Judgment and the Judgment seat of Christ.**

The judgment seat of Christ is different from the [Great White Throne Judgment](#). That will be the final judgment of the wicked prior to their being cast into the lake of fire ([Revelation 20:11–15](#)). Appearing before the Great White Throne will be unbelievers. Believers will appear before the judgment seat of Christ.



# The Purpose of the Judgment seat of Christ

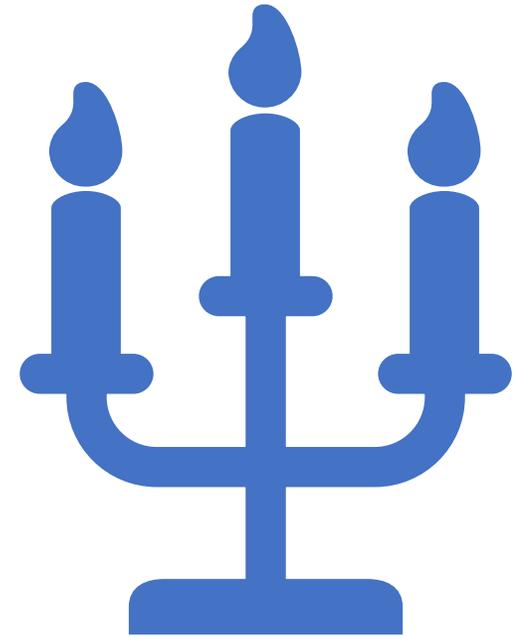
The judgment seat of Christ does *not* determine our salvation; that matter was settled by Christ's sacrifice on our behalf ([1 John 2:2](#)) and our faith in Him ([John 3:16](#)). All our sins are forgiven, and there is "no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" ([Romans 8:1](#)). Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and *will not be judged* but has crossed over from death to life" ([John 5:24](#)).



# What is the bema seat?

In the Greek, a single word is used for “judgment seat” in [Romans 14:10](#) and [2 Corinthians 5:10](#)—the word is *bema*.

A *bema* was a raised platform on which judges sat to view athletic games. Their job was to make sure contestants followed the rules and to present awards to the victors (see [1 Corinthians 9:24–27](#)). The *bema* was never a place to reprimand the athletes or to punish them in any way. It was a place of testing and reward. In the same way, the *bema* of Christ will not be a place of condemnation or censure.



# The Expectation to please the Lord

## The Judgment Seat of Christ 2 Corinthians 5

<sup>9</sup> Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.



# Building on the Foundation of Christ

## 1 Corinthians 3

<sup>9</sup> For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, *you are* God's building. <sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. <sup>11</sup> **For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.** <sup>12</sup> Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; **but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.**

<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? <sup>17</sup> If anyone <sup>[b]</sup>defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

# Don't Judge your brother or sister

## Romans 14

- <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died [b] and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup> But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of [c] Christ. <sup>11</sup> For it is written:

“As I live, says the LORD,  
Every knee shall bow to Me,  
And every tongue shall confess to God.”

<sup>12</sup> So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. <sup>13</sup> Therefore let us not judge one another [d] anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in *our* brother's way.

# Striving for the crown

## 1 Corinthians 9

<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may <sup>[i]</sup>obtain *it*. <sup>25</sup> And everyone who competes *for the prize* <sup>[i]</sup>is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus, I fight, not as *one who* beats the air. <sup>27</sup> But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

# Receive your crown from the Lord.

The Bible speaks of believers receiving [crowns](#) for different things. The various crowns are described in [2 Timothy 2:5](#), [2 Timothy 4:8](#), [James 1:12](#), [1 Peter 5:4](#), and [Revelation 2:10](#). We believe the judgment seat of Christ is when the crowns will be awarded, and this will take place in heaven soon after the rapture of the church (as described in [1 Thessalonians 4:13–18](#)).

# Jesus is bringing His reward

At the very end of the Bible, Jesus said, “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done” ([Revelation 22:12](#)). In preparation for the judgment seat of Christ, what are you choosing to “build” with? Gold, silver, and precious stones—things that will last? Or wood, hay, and straw—things that will not stand the day of testing?

## [Revelation 3:11](#)

I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

**Given the  
white  
garments  
by Christ**

### Revelation 3:5

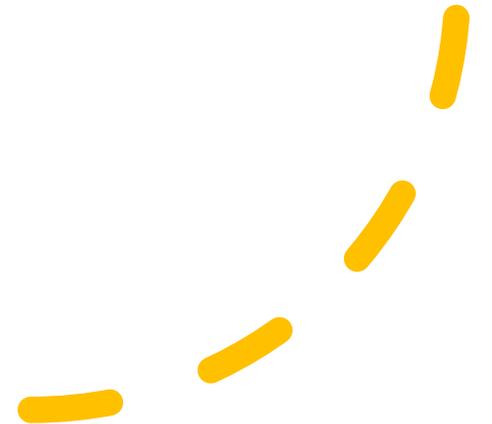
The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.



**We do not  
receive  
Eternal  
Judgement**

**John 5:24**

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment but has passed from death to life.



**What we  
do in the  
body will  
be judged**

### 1 Peter 1:17

And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,



**Run the  
race to  
receive the  
reward**

## [1 Corinthians 9:24-25](#)

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

## [Revelation 22:12](#)

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.



**We must  
be Holy to  
see the  
Lord.**

**Hebrews 12:14**

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.



**Receive the  
crown of  
righteousness,  
love His  
appearing**

### [2 Timothy 4:7-8](#)

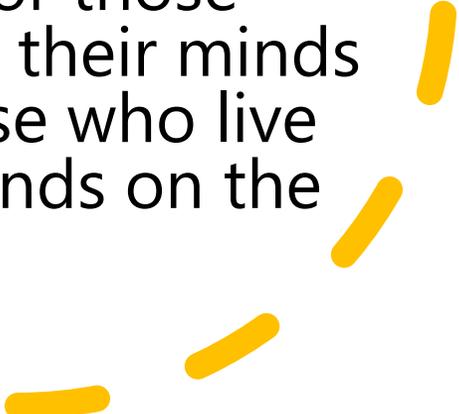
I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.



# Walking in the Spirit not the flesh

## Romans 8:1-39

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ...



# The Great White Throne Judgment



# What is the Great White Throne Judgment?

The great white throne judgment is described in [Revelation 20:11-15](#) and is the final judgment prior to the lost being cast into the lake of fire. We know from [Revelation 20:7-15](#) that this judgment will take place after the millennium and after Satan is thrown into the lake of fire where the beast and the false prophet are ([Revelation 19:19-20](#); [20:7-10](#)). The books that are opened ([Revelation 20:12](#)) contain records of everyone's deeds, whether they are good or evil, because God knows everything that has ever been said, done, or even thought, and He will reward or punish each one accordingly ([Psalm 28:4](#); [62:12](#); [Romans 2:6](#); [Revelation 2:23](#); [18:6](#); [22:12](#)).

# What is the Great White Throne Judgment (continued)

Some Christians believe that the Scriptures reveal three different judgments to come. The first is the judgment of the sheep and the goats or a judgment of the nations ([Matthew 25:31-36](#)). This takes place after the tribulation period but prior to the millennium; its purpose is to determine who will enter the millennial kingdom. The second is a judgment of believers' works, often referred to as the "judgment seat [bema] of Christ" ([2 Corinthians 5:10](#)). At this judgment, Christians will receive degrees of reward for their works or service to God. The third is the great white throne judgment at the end of the millennium ([Revelation 20:11-15](#)). This is the judgment of unbelievers in which they are judged according to their works and sentenced to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire.

**Judgment  
according  
to those  
who do not  
obey the  
truth.**

## Romans 2

<sup>5</sup> But in accordance with your hardness and your [\[a\]](#)impenitent heart you are [\[b\]](#)treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, <sup>6</sup> who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: <sup>7</sup> eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; <sup>8</sup> but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, <sup>9</sup> tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the [\[c\]](#)Greek; <sup>10</sup> but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>11</sup> For there is no partiality with God.

# Judgment of the Nations

## Matthew 25

<sup>41</sup> “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry, and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty, and you gave Me no drink; <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger, and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

<sup>44</sup> “Then they also will answer [\[d\]](#)Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ <sup>45</sup> Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.’ <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

# The Great White Throne Judgment

**Revelation 20v11-15** Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

# What Judgment will you face?

We will all die at some point and there is a judgment seat waiting for all of us. The question is will it be the bema seat or the Great White Throne? If you are in Christ, you will not see the Great White Throne. This should not only make you rejoice this should also motivate you to want to share the gospel. Your desire should be to help as many people escape this Great White Throne Judgment. This is what Jesus has called us to do. Hopefully being reminded of final judgment will inspire us all to do more for the sake of the gospel and the sake of those who do not know Jesus as Savior.

**Thank you, God  
Bless you and  
Good Night**