

June 9, 2024

The Last Judgment—Lesson 10

The Bema Seat—**2 Cor. 5:10**

Last week we learned that God is the Subject/Substance of our...*deeds*...and rewards because ...*God is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure...* [**Phil. 2:13**]

This means that it is ...[God's] *good pleasure*... to give us rewards as we read in 1 Corinthians 4:5.

...[God will] disclose the motives of man's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God...
[**1 Cor. 4:5**]

This means that God's praise will come in the form of rewards.

Zeph. 3:17 *...the Lord your God is in your midst... He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy...*

This morning we turn our attention to the issue of the loss of rewards by referencing **1 Cor. 3:9-15**. In this passage, Paul uses the analogy of the construction of ...*God's building*... to speak about the loss of rewards—

In **v. 9** he says ...*[we] are God's field, God's building...*

v. 10 *According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.*

In **v. 11**, Paul is careful to explain that Christ is the Foundation of *...God's building...*
[Is. 28:16]

*...For no man can lay a Foundation other than the one
which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

Now in **v. 12** Paul turns his attention to the two types of materials used in constructing
...God's building...

*Now if any man builds on the Foundation with gold,
silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw...*

...gold [and] silver...

- these represent those *...deeds...* done *...from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith*
[1 Tim. 1:5]

- those *...deeds...* that manifest the character of Jesus—

*...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness,
self-control [Gal. 5:22-23]*

...wood, hay, straw...

- these represent those *deeds* that may seem to be good but are not *from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith* [**1 Tim. 1:5**]

Phil. 1:15-17 *...some preach Christ out of **envy** and **rivalry**, but others out of **goodwill**. 16 The latter do so **in love**...17 The former ...out of **selfish ambition**...*

Having distinguished the two kinds of *...deeds...*, in **v. 13-15** Paul explains the result—

v. 13 *...each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it [at the bema] because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.*

The quality of... ...each man's work will...be revealed with fire...

...fire... in this verse is a symbol of God's cleansing or purifying work

- The spiritual quality of our *...deeds...* will be judged against the Word of God

Heb. 4:12 *For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart...*

Then in **v. 14-15** Paul explains the two results of God's purifying judgment—

*If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. **15** If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; **but** he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire...*

This is the sobering reality of the *bema*.

At this point, I want to share my opinion about how to reduce the loss of rewards—

In **1 Cor. 11:28-31** Paul is addressing the abuse of communion:

Because of their abuse, many have experienced the judgment of God:

30 *For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep...*

However, in **v. 31** he says *...but if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.*

How do we judge ourselves?