

- And that we will never be reminded of them again.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving. ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

Colossians 3:23-25

IN everything we do; we should be working at it with our whole heart because we are doing it for the Lord.

In this life, we need to stand up in terms of our:

- Our testimony.
- Our witness.
- To be faithful.
- Never stepping back.
- Never denying Christ.
- Never giving an inch in terms of our testimony and our witness.

We will be rewarded. We will have glory that differs from others – and it is going to be glorious, in the time of glorification.

But we need to:

- Live **TODAY** for Jesus.
- Turn our backs on the world.
- Walk in the Holy Spirit not in the flesh.

We need to be building up treasures in heaven because a day will come when all of that investment will become reality.

On that day, we do not want to be embarrassed because we have built with wood, hay, and straw.

Instead, on that day, we want to rejoice with Christ, because we built with precious stones, silver, and gold; for His glory.

Here is the question we all need to ask ourselves:

- Will the works we have done, the works we are doing, and the works we have yet to do, in this life, survive the fire?
- Will the way we are living, speaking, and doing life in Christ TODAY – will they bring us rewards or will they bring us loss?

The Judgement Seat of Christ and Heaven.

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹ It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the

Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'" ¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. **Romans 14:10–12.**

For 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 Greek word for "**Judgement Seat**" "**Bema**" and it refers to the judge's seat at the Olympic games.

All believers, will come before the "Bema Seat" of Christ, and this will be the place of reward. A great day that will be! Amen! But it will also be the place of "loss of rewards" for Christians.

The reason why, is because we are not just being judged for the good, we did "while saved" but also for the bad we did "while saved."

There is no punishment at this time, but there is "loss of rewards."

Jesus is the judge on the "bema seat." John 5:22

Christians works will be TESTED at this time - for everything we do, from the moment we are saved till our physical death.

For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it.

But each one should build with care.

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. (The day being the day you stand before the Judgement seat of Christ.) It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. ¹⁴ If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder

will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames. 1Corinthians 3:9–15

The “Time-line” of our lives.

- There was a time before you were saved.
- There was a day you made a decision to accept God’s grace through His Son, Jesus Christ.
- God saved you and “You were “Born Again.”
- The period of time, that we live as born-again believers on this earth until the time we die or Jesus comes again is what we shall be rewarded for or lose rewards.
- Then we live, after death, in His presence.
- ❖ *All living Christians are living between the time-period between being born-again and physical death – Sanctification.*

Paul says, “**we have laid the foundation**” the foundation is Christ. You are to also “**build on this same foundation**” the foundation of Christ.

❖ *We are called to live by faith and DO good works in Christ.*

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. (Salvation. Justification.) ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:8-10

❖ *The works, that God prepared for us to do – must be done because how we do them and if we are obedient to do them – counts for reward or loss.*

At “Glorification” when we stand before Jesus at his throne, at the “Bema Seat” we will be judged by whether we built with “wood, hay, and straw,” or if we built with “precious stones, gold and silver.”

For the majority of Christians, whose lives have ups and downs, who live most of the time the way God wants, BUT sometimes we do not – our bad works do not negate our good works.

The bad works will be burnt up and only that which was built with gold, silver and precious stone will remain standing – and for that we will receive a reward. Amen!

But how sad – on that day:

- For the Christians who mainly built with hay, straw, and wood.

- How sad for the Christians who never lived out their full potential Christian life.
- How sad, for the Christians, who never experienced the promises that God had in store for them in his life.
- How sad for the Christians who did not walk in the Holy Spirit but instead walked in the flesh – even though he was saved.
- How sad that all his works will be burned up and the bible says of him, “**that he will still be saved but as through fire.**”
- Let’s make sure we are not those “**that will be saved but as through fire.**”

Those who have built with precious stones, gold, and silver. Their works will stand the test of fire and they will receive their rewards accordingly. What a great day that will be for them!

What kind of rewards are we talking about?

The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. ⁴² So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. 1Corinthians 15:41

5 different crowns in scripture.

1. The **Incarnate** Crown. 1 Corinthians 9:25.
2. The Crown of **Rejoicing**. 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 20
3. The Crown of **Righteousness**. 2 Timothy 4:8
4. The Crown of **Life**. James 1:12 and Revelation 2:10.
5. The Crown of **Glory**. 1 Peter 5:2-5

Crowns will be given to those who have chosen to stand firm, for His name’s sake:

- Despite the pressure of the world.
- Despite rejection.
- Despite attack.
- Despite physical beatings.
- Despite whatever happens – even to the point of death and die.
- They will receive special crowns and special rewards.

One of the greatest mistakes, we make in this life-time, is to think that in heaven we will all be alike.

That is most certainly not the case.

- We will not argue about this in heaven.
- There will be no jealousy, as we see our bad works burned up – we will be glad that they are destroyed forever.