

THE JUDGMENT OF THE GENTILES AND THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Text: Matthew 25:31-46, Romans 14:10, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

INTRODUCTION: Many judgments are mentioned in the Scriptures: the judgment of sin upon the cross, the judgment of Israel during the tribulation, the judgment seat of Christ, the judgment of the Gentiles, and the great white throne judgment. Today we look at two of these that are commonly not understood.

I. THE JUDGMENT OF THE GENTILES

Matthew 25:31-46 ³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ ³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’ ⁴¹ “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: ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³ 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.’ ⁴⁴ “Then they also will answer 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?’ ⁴⁵ 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.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

THE JUDGMENT OF THE GENTILES

Who will be judged?	The Gentiles who survive the tribulation.
When?	Shortly after Christ's return; early days of the millennium.
Where will the judgment occur?	The Valley of Jehosophat

	This valley is probably between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea.
Basis of judgment?	<p>How the person treated the brethren of Christ.</p> <p>The brethren include the Jews and Christians.</p> <p>The reality is that only those who themselves rejected the mark of the beast and instead trusted Christ were willing to aid Jews and other believers.</p>
Possible outcomes?	<p>Those who are saved and therefore aid the brethren are allowed to live and enter the Millennial Kingdom in their natural bodies along with the Jews saved at Christ's coming.</p> <p>Those who were lost and therefore refused aid to the brethren are killed, and they go immediately to hell.</p>

The fact that some Gentiles will pass through the Judgment of the Gentiles is by no means any reason for one to procrastinate about his own salvation. Only a very few of people living today could possibly be at the Judgment of the Gentiles. If there are 10,000 lost people in a city, all the rest (the saved) will be raptured. Of those who remain, 5,000 will die in two of the 21 judgments of the Tribulation. Probably another 3,000 will die in the other judgments. Two thousand might make it through the tribulation and be brought to the Valley of Jehosophat for this judgment. If so, I hope they got saved during the tribulation.

People would be a lot better off to get saved now and get raptured with believers.

However, all of us who have been saved will appear at...

II. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Who will be judged?	<p>All believers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romans 14:10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For <u>we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.</u> <p>Only believers (The unsaved shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment)</p>
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	instead.)
When?	<p>After the rapture of the church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before the beginning of the millennium • During the tribulation
Where will the judgment occur?	<p>In heaven</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before the "bema" of Christ <p>The bema was the platform or chair upon which the official stood or sat when rendering a judicial decision.</p>
Basis of judgment?	<p>This is not a judgment of sin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 John 1:7 "... the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. • Psalm 103:12 "As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us." • Jeremiah 31:34 "...For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." <p>This is a judgment of what the believer has built on the foundation of Jesus Christ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Cor. 3:10-15 ¹⁰ 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 <u>how he builds on it.</u> ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation <i>with</i> gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 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. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on <i>it</i> endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. <p>The judgment seat raises important questions:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gold is associated with the glory of God. What have you done in your life for God's glory? 2. Silver speaks of redemption. What have you done to help bring people to faith in Jesus Christ? 3. Precious stones remind us of eternity. How is your life making a difference that will last for eternity? 4. Wood, hay, stubble speak of those things which time destroys: personal gratification, personal advancement, the accumulation of wealth for personal comfort, pleasure and luxury. 5. How have we used the talents, spiritual gifts, financial resources, health, energy, time, opportunities that God has given you since your salvation?
Possible outcomes?	<p>Those who have built well will receive rewards.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are the crowns of righteousness, of rejoicing, incorruptible, of life, and of glory. 2. Those who have been faithful in little will be given greater positions of service, responsibility and honor in the Millennial Kingdom when we rule and reign with Christ. <p>Matthew 25:14-30</p> <p>¹⁴ “For <i>the kingdom of heaven is</i> like a man traveling to a far country, <i>who</i> called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. ¹⁵ And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. ¹⁶ Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. ¹⁷ And likewise he who <i>had received</i> two gained two more also. ¹⁸ But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. ¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five</p>

talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’²¹ His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’²² He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’²³ His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’²⁴ “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.’²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there you have what is yours.*’²⁶ “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.’²⁷ So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.’²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents.’²⁹ ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.’³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

3. In the parable, the men given five and two talents respectively represent believers. Each has a different level of ability and opportunity. However when each of them is faithful to use what was entrusted to them by their lord for their lord, they are equally rewarded. So it will be at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
4. The third man, given only a single talent, represents one who professes faith but does not possess faith. He says he is a Christian, but he is not born again. We can see this in the fact that he produces

	<p>no good works at all, not even interest on what his lord trusted to him. Every true born again believer produces some good work because we have been saved “unto good works.” The Spirit says through James, “Faith without works is dead.” Genuine conversion is always evidenced by some good works. This lost imposter will be cast into hell where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.</p> <p>Those whose life work is burned up because it had no eternal value will suffer loss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• of rewards which God wanted them to have.• of Millennial Kingdom offices they would have been qualified to hold.
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CONCLUSION: If the opportunity to build for eternity ended today, what would your life work look like at the Judgment Seat of Christ? If that opportunity is extended for one month, what would be different?