

Judgment Seat of Christ

The Judgment Seat was a raised place mounted by steps and used for the official seat of a judge. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body; according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. The manifestation of the believer's works is in question at this judgment. It is not a judgment of the saints. These have been fully atoned for in the vicarious and substitutionary death of Christ, and "remembered no more forever." The service of every child of God is scrutinized and evaluated. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. By why do you judge your brother? or why do you set at naught your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

So then each of us all give account of himself to God. Every man's work will be made manifest, for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Christianity is the world's only religion that sets a man right by grace and simple faith and then supernaturally empowers his life and enables his works. Then-wonder of wonders - that man is rewarded for the works which he had nothing to do with in the first place. Do you not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? For if God spared not the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;.. The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.. But the heavens and earth which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. And the angel which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? At the last judgment, said Jesus, one issue will decide the fate of men - have they fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty welcomed the stranger, clothed the naked, visited the sick and the imprisoned. A further problem arises with regard to the relation between the private judgment of an individual immediately after death, and the general judgment of all the dead at the final consummation of the world and the second coming of Christ and the idea that we are not judged at all if we are translated. The question is an awkward problem of what state a person is in between the private judgment and the general judgment.. How a spiritual entity could possess a temporal duration was never explained.

[II Corinthians, BD, Ephesians, Romans, I Corinthians, 335, I Peter, II Peter, 315, 92, Jude]