



The expression "The Judgment Seat Of Christ" in the English Bible has tended to cause some to draw the wrong conclusion about the nature and purpose of this evaluation. A common misconception which arises from this English translation is that God will allocate out a just retribution for sins in the believer's life, and some measure of retributive punishment for sins will result. Though it is tremendously serious with eternal ramifications, the Judgment Seat of Christ is not a place and time when the Lord

will allocate out punishment for sins committed by the child of God. Rather, it is a place where rewards will be given or lost depending on how one has used his or her life for the Lord. It is significant that among the final words of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, we find these words of the Lord: Rev. 22:12 "Behold, I Am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done." While salvation is a gift, there are rewards given for faithfulness in the Christian life and loss of rewards for unfaithfulness. Rewards become one of the great motives of the Christian's life or should. But we need to understand the nature of these rewards to understand the nature of the motivation. Some people are troubled by the doctrine of rewards because this seems to suggest "merit" instead of "grace," and because, it is pointed out, we should only serve the Lord out of love and for God's glory.

Of course we should serve the Lord out of love and for God's glory, and understanding the nature of rewards will help us do that. But the fact still remains that the Bible promises us rewards. God gives us salvation. It is a gift through faith, but He rewards us for good works. God graciously supplies the means by which we may serve Him. Indeed, He works in us both to will and to do as we volitionally appropriate His grace (Phil. 2:12-13), but the decision to serve, and the diligence employed in doing so, are our responsibility and our contribution and God sees this as rewardable.

"This Is The Life We Live"

We are not to hold the world in contempt. We are to obey its laws. We are to love those for whom Christ died. We are to pray for them, witness to them, and help in all worthwhile social projects that we can. But we are to achieve that most difficult of all tasks, not to be conformed to the world. This is the Christian's stand; this is the Christian's life.



"Jesus Prays For Us"

(John 17:11-16)

"And now I Am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I Am coming to You. Holy Father, protect them in Your Name that You have given Me, so that they may be one, as We are One. While I was with them, I protected them in Your Name that You have given Me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I Am coming

to You, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have My joy made complete in themselves. I have given them Your Word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I Am not asking You to take them out of the world, but I ask You to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world."

"What Is The World?"

As we read the New Testament, it is clear that we are not to become entangled with the world. Now at first glance, a new Christian might shrink from this idea. But the question is, "What Is The World?" There are at least three meanings attached to the word world.

- First, the Bible says that there is the created world. "God ... made the world and everything in it" (Acts 17:24).
- Second, there are the inhabitants of the world, whom God loves and for whom Christ died. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16). When the Bible says that God loves the world, it is referring to the human beings who live here.
- Third, there is the cosmos, the world system, which is headed by Satan and based upon self, greed and pride. This is the world that God warns about, and it is this world system and philosophy that Christians are to shun and remain free from.

"Clear Warnings"

The warnings are clear. The Bible says in Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world." The Bible teaches in Galatians 1:4 that, "Christ gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age [cosmos]." In other words, the world was such a great danger to our souls that this danger caused Christ, the Son of God, to go to the cross to deliver us from it. Throughout the Bible, the lines are definitely drawn between the world of unbelievers and the world of the children of God. "Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (James 4:4). Again Jesus said, "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you" (John 15:18).

"Christians Are Like The Gulf Stream"

2 Corinthians 6:17



"Therefore, "Come Out From Them And Be Separate, Says The Lord."

Christians are like the Gulf Stream, which is in the ocean and yet not part of it. This mysterious current defies the mighty Atlantic, ignores its tides, and flows steadily upon its course. Its color is different, being a deeper blue. Its temperature is different, being warmer. Its direction is different, being from south to north. It is in the ocean, and yet it is not part of it. Loving the world

means being devoted to the world's treasures, philosophies, and priorities. "If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world." (C.S. Lewis) God tells His children to set their priorities according to His eternal value system. We are to "Seek First" God's kingdom and righteousness (Matthew 6:33). "No one can serve two masters." (Matthew 6:24), and we cannot be devoted to both God and the world at the same time. So we as Christians are in the world. We come in contact with the world, and yet we retain our distinctive kingdom character and refuse to let the world press us into its mold.

"Christians Need To Maintain An Eternal Perspective"

Christians need to maintain an eternal perspective rather than a temporary one by avoiding being trapped by cultural ideologies that are materialistic, greed-focused, or otherwise that focus on earthly pleasures over spiritual ones. It seems that Jesus understood the tension we would experience as Christians living in a hostile ideological environment. The authors of the New Testament also encouraged us to continue our relationships with the world around us, but to be careful to live in a way that pleases God, not the culture: Romans 12:2 is pretty clear: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." 1 John 2:15 "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

"We Strive For the Eternal Rewards"

When we enter God's family through faith in Christ, God gives us the ability to exit the world's rat race (2 Corinthians 5:17) "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" We become citizens of another kingdom. (Luke 12:33) "But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." Our desires turn heavenward, and we begin to store up eternal treasure.



(1Timothy 6:18-19) "They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life." Everything we do will either bring reward or regret. How we spend our time and the foolish things we wasted our money on. The rope goes on forever now imagine the rope is a time line of your existence that exist forever. You see this red part would represent your time on earth. You have a few short years on earth and you have eternity somewhere else. Some only focus on the red part and are

consumed with this. I am going to work hard and save, save, save so I can really enjoy this part here. What about the rest of the rope? The bible says what I do with this little red part will determine how I will exist for millions and millions of years. (Eternity) So why would I make this red part trying to make my life as comfortable as possible. Enjoying myself as much as I can. Paul says he is not going to focus on what he can gain in this life but keep his focus as a runner looking to the author and finisher of his faith. We do not get this chance again on this red line. We do not get to a do over. Once our lives have ended we step into eternity. This red line is going to affect all your life in eternity. This is the way the world lives. And the things this life has to offer is so tempting to focus on. Everyone is focus on the red part and no one is thinking about eternity. This is truly a crazy deception we can get caught up into. Apostle Paul says I am not doing that. I am keeping my eyes on the prize and the finish line. One day I am going to come face to face with Jesus and there will be a crown. (2 Timothy 4:6-8) "As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for His appearing."

"The Doctrine of Rewards: The Judgment Seat (Bema) of Christ"

One of the prominent doctrines of the New Testament is the Doctrine of Rewards and the Judgment Seat of Christ. It is a doctrine often ignored or, when taught, it is misrepresented because of the term "Judgment" that is used in translating the Greek text. Within the church today there exists considerable confusion and debate regarding the exact nature of the examination at the Judgment Seat of Christ.