9th June, 2024 Sungai Nibong Gospel Hall

**The Coming Judgments –**

**Pt. 1:** The Judgment Seat of Christ.

**Pt. 2:** The Judgment at The Great White Throne.

Intro.: Is there only one Final Universal General Judgment for all on the last day?

 One General Resurrection and one General Judgment? – Heb. 9:27

 *And as it is appointed unto men ﻿once to die, but ﻿after this the judgment.*

 Cf. Jn. 11:24 – *Martha saith unto Him, I know that he [Lazarus] shall rise again in the*

 *resurrection at the last day.*

 Jn. 5:28, 29 – *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of*

 *life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. (condemnation, NKJV)*

 Cf. Dan. 12:1, 2 – *At that time…there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt*.

**Consider Three Separate judgments before Three different ‘Thrones’ in Three different Spheres in the Future as mentioned in the Bible,** viz.

**(1) The Saints at the Judgment Seat of Christ in Heaven.**

 1 Thes. 4:16-17 – *For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

 II Cor. 5:6-10 – *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad*

 (1) The Saints at the Judgment Seat of Christ in heaven/the Air. II Cor. 5:6-10
(2) The Sheep and Goats at the Throne of Glory on Earth. Mt. 25:31-46

 31 *When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory:…And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

(1) The **S**aints at the Judgment **S**eat of Christ in Heaven. II Cor. 5:6-10

(2) The **S**heep and Goats at the Throne of Glory on Earth. Mt. 25:31-46

(3) The **S**inners at the Great White Throne in Space. Rev. 20:11-15, NKJV

 11 *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.*

 *12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.*

 *13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.*

 *14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*

**Consider also:**

A **P**ast Judgment on **S**in borne by Jesus, our **S**aviour on the cross.

Rom. 8:1 – *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ* …

Jn. 5:24, NKJV – “*I say to you, he who…believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life…shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*

A **P**resent Judgment of **S**elf and by **S**elf. I Cor. 11:28-31, NKJV –

*But let a man examine himself…For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ...*

*For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.*

A Prospective Judgment of the Jews in the wilderness on earth. Eze. 20:33-38-44; 22:19-22

33 *As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you:*

*34 And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. 35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.*

Three passages of Scripture stand out very clearly:

 Rom. 14:10; II Cor. 5:10; I Cor. 3:10-15

**A. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF Christ. Rom. 14:10**

1. The **M**ention: *we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ/God.* KJV cf. NRSV, NIV

 Cf. *we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.* II Cor. 5:10, all versions.

 Cf. *The Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.* Jn. 5:22

2. The **M**eaning of the judgment seat:

 a. Gk. *Bema* = a raised platform or tribunal from which speeches were delivered and judgments

 were made: As Acts 12:21; 18:12; 25:6

 Historically, a raised platform used in Greek cities, judgment-seat, set [foot] on, throne. (Strong)

 – Judicial use: a Seat for Judges. as used when making a Ruling in a court of law.

 – Public Speaking used by orators;

 – Athletics, as used in a Running Race to judge the winner.

 b. Gk. Criterion = a rule of judging ("criterion")…to judge, judgment (seat). Jas. 2:6

3. The **M**otives – This is a judgment of Motives, things done unto the Lord. Rom. 14:6-8 –

 *For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord.*

 b. And a judgment of Works: cf. I Cor. 3:13

 *Every man's work shall be made manifest… because it shall be revealed by fire;*

 *and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.*

4. The **M**oment in time – in the Future, after the Rapture?

a. When we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ – still future. Rom. 14:10

b. When He might be Lord both of the dead and living after the Rapture? Rom. 14:9

c. Cf. *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come*, I Cor. 4:5

 *Who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*

5. The **M**anner – Judge not others’ motives; leave all judgment unto the Lord. …

 *for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.* Rom. 14:10; Mt. 7:1-5

 a. Do not Misjudge the practice of others with respect to **M**otives. 14:3, 4

 b. Each one is **A**ccountable for his/her own **A**ction. 14:5, 6, 12

 c. Do not Put a stumbling block in the **P**ath of another. 14:13, 21

 d. **L**et each be fully persuaded of the **L**ord. 14:3, 14, 20

 e. Let us then **P**ursue what makes for **P**eace and for mutual upbuilding. 14:19, NRSV

 f. Consider the weaker brother and **A**bstain if an **A**ction can offend. 14:21

 g. **F**ollow Christ Who pleased not Himself, bearing reproaches that Fell on Him. . 15:1-3, ff

 Cf. *Judge not, that ye be not Judged.* Mt. 7:1

**B. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST. II Cor. 5:10**

**1**. The **A**ppearance – *we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ;*

a. All must **A**ppear, i.e. all “**we**” in Christ, i.e. the believers. *we* – 26 occ. in chap.

i. Those absent from the Lord and those present with the Lord.

 Pres**ent** in the body Abs**ent** from the body - II Cor. 5:6, 8

ii. Those saints in the **C**hurch of God which is at **C**orinth. II Cor. 1:1

b. All must **A**ccount – *All* (every one of us) *shall give account to God.*  Rom. 14:12

i. Some will Receive a **R**eward (Gain), others will suffer **L**oss. I Cor. 3:14f

 Note Paul was Ready to count all Gain as Loss for Christ. Phil. 3:7

c. All seek to **A**bide in Him not to be **A**shamed at His **A**ppearing. I Jn.2:28

**2.** The **A**ssessment – *every one may receive the things done in his body…whether it be good or bad* II Cor. 5:10

a. Is it good? i.e. from word meaning beautiful, but chiefly (fig.) good (lit.),

 i.e. valuable or virtuous. Strong

b. Is it bad? from a primary word meaning worthless i.e. good for nothing. Strong

A. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF Christ (I) Rom. 14:10

B. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST. (II) II Cor. 5:10

C. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST (III) I Cor. 3:11-15

**1.** The **P**eople – It is a Judgment of Believers. I Cor. 3:11

a. It involves one who builds on the foundation which is Jesus Christ. I Cor. 3:11

b. It involves one who lives or dies unto the Lord because he is the Lord’s. Rom. 14:8

c. It involves one who is either absent from the Lord or present with the Lord. II Cor. 5:6, 8

**2.** The **P**urpose:

a. To test every man's **W**ork of **W**hat sort it is. I Cor. 3:13

 It is a test of Works and the Motive that inspires them. Cf. Rom. 14

i. The work can be *gold, silver, precious stones*, i.e. of **Q**uality (Valuable) I Cor. 3:12a

ii. Or it can be *wood, hay, stubble*, i.e. of **Q**uantity but Worthless. I Cor. 3:12b

b. The **F**igure of the **F**ire in the testing,

i. In this Judgment, the fire will burn up the **S**tubble, I Cor. 3:15

 and the **S**aint will Suffer loss but he shall be **S**aved.

ii. In the Judgment in the Day of the Lord, the fire will burn the **S**inners as **S**tubble

 and will leave them neither physical root nor branch: Mal. 4:1,5

or "*Not a root or a branch will be left to them*.” NIV

**3.** The **P**roduct.

a. Either he will **S**uffer loss, though he will be **S**aved so as by fire. I Cor. 3:15

b. Or he will **R**eceive a **R**eward.

 Cp. The possible Crowns he will receive: - I Cor. 3:14

i. **The Crown of Life** or the Martyr’s Crown. Rev. 2:10; Jas. 1:12;

 *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

 *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

ii. **The Crown of Glory** or the Elder’s Crown. I Pet.5:2-4

 *When the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

iii. **The Crown of Rejoicing** or the Soul-winner’s Crown. I Thes. 2:19, 20; Phil. 4:1

 *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy.*

 *My brethren, dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord.*

iv. **The Crown of Righteousness** or for those who love His appearing. II Tim. 4:8

 *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.*

v**. The Incorruptible Crown** or the Victor’s Crown. I Cor. 9:25-27

*Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.*

 *Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.*

 *I therefore so run…so fight I [and] I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection.*

 **The Judgment Seat of Christ** – **The Works and the Rewards**

 a. He will Suffer loss, though he will be Saved so as by fire. I Cor. 3:15
b. Or he will Receive a Reward.

 He will be Rewarded for Good Works. What are the possible good works for which he will be rewarded?

i. The good works of Witnessing: Mt. 5:16; I Pet. 2:12

 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father…in heaven.

ii. The good works of Walking in His Workmanship: Eph. 2:19

 We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

iii. The good works of Worshipping God: I Tim. 2:10, NIV

 With good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

iv. Other Good Works of…

 Chari**ty**: This woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. Acts 9:36

 Generosi**ty**: be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share. I Tim. 6:18

 Maturi**ty** as the man of God… thoroughly equipped for every good work.

 II Tim. 3:17, NIV; Tit. 3:8, 14

 Consisten**cy**: In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works Tit. 2:7 cf. 2:14

 Loving the assemb**ly**: Heb. 10:24, 25 *Consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves*

Conclusion:

*Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.* I Cor. 4:2

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always* abounding in the work of the *Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*  I Cor. 15:58

*Let no man beguile you of your reward.* Col. 2:18

*Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.* Rev. 3:11

**Next Fortnight:** Pt. II – The Judgment at the Great White Throne.

 (The Judgment of the Sheep and Goats)

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