

Eternal judgment is among the elementary foundations of Christian faith.

Hebrews 6

“¹ Therefore leaving the **elementary teaching** about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and **eternal judgment.**”

John 5:24

“truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and **does not come into judgment**, but has passed out of death into life.”

But what about

2 Corinthians 5:10

“For **we must all appear before the judgment-seat of Christ**, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

Questions about the judgement of believers.

In what sense has Christ been judged for us?

Is there a judgment of believers that has nothing to do with their salvation?

What is the moral responsibility of believers?

How much do we really know about the last judgment?

Four common mistakes

If we are not practicing a perfectly holy life we do not go to heaven.

Because we are saved by grace it makes no difference how we live.



If we strive to be holy, God will accept us.

Because God is merciful He will not judge anyone.

2 Corinthians 5

“¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment-seat (**bema**) of Christ, that each one may be **recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done**, whether good or bad. ¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.”

What Christians have done in this life will be judged.

1 Corinthians 4

“³ But to me it is a very small thing that I should be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. ⁴ I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord. ⁵ Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and **disclose the motives of men's hearts**; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.”

Disclosure of what was hidden is the subject of the judgement.

Romans 14

“¹⁰ But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment-seat (**bema**) of God. ¹¹ For it is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.’ ¹² So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

In the end all will be giving praise to God.

Revelation 21:4

“and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

In the end our tears will be wiped away.

1 Corinthians 3

“¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work.”

How Christians build on their faith in Christ is the issue.

1 Corinthians 3

“¹⁴ If any man’s work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man’s work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.”

Reward and loss (not salvation) is the result of the believer’s judgment.

1 Corinthians 3

“⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. ⁷ So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.”

Moral virtue

Christ’s provision for our need of holiness

Ministry value

our labor for the building up of the Body of Christ

Eternity may be a different experience for those who suffer loss or receive a reward.

suffer loss

Shame

Loss of participation in the life of the Kingdom

receive a reward

Satisfaction

The fellowship and joy of participation in the life of the Kingdom

A suggested explanation

The Gospel is good news for sinners.
Salvation is by grace through faith apart
from works.

What we do makes a difference.
Believers behavior will bring loss or reward.

Heaven will be heaven.
All believers will praise God in the end.

1. All (including believers) will have their lives exposed at the judgment and found wanting.

Romans 3:10
“There is none
righteous, no not one.”

Romans 7:14
“For we know that the
Law is spiritual, but I
am of flesh, sold into
bondage to sin.”



2. The condemnation that all deserved was born for them by Christ on the cross.

1 John 2:2
“And He Himself is the
propitiation for our sins; and
not for ours only, but also
for those of the whole world.”

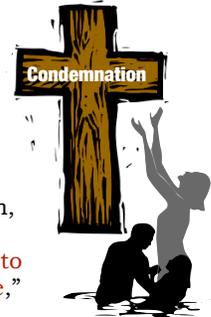
2 Corinthians 5:21
“He made Him who knew no
sin to be sin on our behalf, so
that we might become the
righteousness of God in Him.”



3. The gift of redemption is offered to all who would receive it by faith in Christ.

Galatians 2:16
“a man is not justified
by the works of the
Law but through faith
in Christ Jesus”

John 1:12
“But as many as received Him,
to them He gave the right to
become children of God, even to
those who believe in His name,”



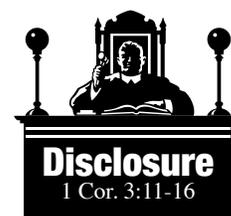
John 3
“16 For God so loved the world, that He
gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever
believes in Him** should not perish, but
have eternal life.

17 For God did not send the Son into the
world to judge the world, but that the
world should be saved through Him. 18 **He
who believes in Him is not judged; he who
does not believe has been judged already,
because he has not believed** in the name of
the only begotten Son of God.”

4. The disclosure of believer's lives at the Judgment seat of Christ will be a part of the final judgment.



our fruit
of the Spirit



our works
of the Flesh