

“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”

(Hebrews 6:1–2, NKJV)

Let’s review the first five doctrines we’ve covered so far

Repentance from dead works:

- You must understand what repentance is — and what repentance is not
- You must know how to truly repent

Faith toward God:

- We saw how this describes a faith that rests wholly on Christ and not on anything else

The doctrines of baptisms:

- There are three baptisms in the New Testament, and God wants you to have all three
- One is essential to be saved — your baptism into the Body of Christ
- The other two are central to your faith — water baptism and the baptism in the Holy Spirit

Laying on of hands:

- We saw that the laying on of hands is a well-established, holy practice throughout Scripture
- God uses human hands to impart power, gifts, healing, blessing, authority, and the infilling of the Holy Spirit
- The laying on of hands is central to the power of God being operational in the Church

The resurrection of the dead:

- The Bible teaches three resurrections will take place in the future
- In the first resurrection, everyone who has died in Christ, along with those who are alive on earth, will be raised from the dead when the rapture of the Church takes place
- A second resurrection will occur at the end of the Tribulation when all those who received Christ and died as martyrs during the Tribulation will be raised from the dead
- Finally, at the very end of the Millennial reign of Christ will come the third and final resurrection when the unsaved will be resurrected and summoned before God to give account for their lives

The Bible calls this the Great White Throne Judgment, which we will discuss more in-depth in this session

The Great White Throne Judgement

“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. 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. 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. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:11–15, NKJV)

- If you are a believer you will not stand before the *Great White Throne* to be judged
- You are in Christ
- This judgment is only for those who have rejected the message of Salvation through Jesus Christ

Verse 12 – *“small and great”* – everyone regardless of their status – all of those who died outside of faith

- The books will be opened
- God is a keeper of records
- These books are plural
- One of them is called *“The Book of Life”*
- This book holds the names of those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ

“Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” (Luke 10:17–20, NKJV)

- The greatest thing to rejoice in as a Christian is that our names are written in heaven
- In *“The Book of Life”*

Those not written in this book will be judged according to what is written about their works on earth in the other books

- Anyone not found written in *“The Book of Life”* is cast into the *“lake of fire”*
- This is the eternal destiny of every person who dies without Christ
- Even though this is not culturally acceptable it is true

The Judgement Seat of Christ

- This will take place after the rapture of the church
- Along with the *“Marriage Supper of the Lamb”*
- This will not be like a movie for everyone to see all of your sins on display
- Our sins have already been dealt with through the Redemptive Work of Christ

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” (Romans 8:1, NKJV)

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

(1 John 1:9, NKJV)

- God is not going to deal with us about sins that have been placed under the blood of Christ
- Once our sin is under the Blood it is there forever

“As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.” (Psalm 103:12, NKJV)

The Judgement Seat of Christ is where God will deal with us according to our obedience after coming to Christ

- How willingly and fully did we carry out what Jesus asked us to do?
- This will be a place of evaluation

On that basis of that evaluation, rewards will be given and our position of service in the Millennial Reign of Christ will be revealed

- We are currently in a qualification period for the next age

“*But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*” (Romans 14:10, NKJV)

“*So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.*”
(Romans 14:12, NKJV)

- Stand – simply means to Stand! – not to crawl or grovel
- This is not a place of shame and embarrassment
- We will not be shamed for our past sin
- We have been robed in His Righteousness
– 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Original language does not use the word, *judgment*
- The original word is *bema*
- It was a platform where victors during the Isthmian games were rewarded
- These games were primarily famous for foot races
- It was a place where laurel crowns were placed on their heads
- It was not a place where losers were whipped or condemned
- The *bema* was a place of evaluation and designation

Paul is saying essentially we are like competitors who are running a spiritual race – 1 Corinthians 9:24

- We will be standing on the platform to be celebrated and commended
- Christ will evaluate our various levels of obedience and reward us accordingly

Romans 14:12 – “*give account*”

To give a factual report of what we did and did not do regarding what He asked of us

- It is a place where we will not be able to escape the facts
- Did we complete our role in the “*games of the Kingdom*” during our time on earth?
- A factual report is in my future and yours as well

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

(2 Corinthians 5:10, NKJV)

- *Judgment seat* – again, *bema*
- “Each one” – “*all-inclusive*” – every believer will be evaluated
- “Receive” – “*to receive what a person has coming to him*”
- If you have worked hard at what God asked you to do then you will have many rewards
- If we were lazy about our call we will receive a lesser reward or none at all

“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 how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 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. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."

(1 Corinthians 3:10–15, NKJV)

- Salvation is God's gift to us
- What we do with that gift is our gift to God
- He does not say that our salvation will be tested
- He says, our work will "*become clear*" or made *manifest*
- *Revealed by fire* – this carries the idea of a scrutinizing test
- Something thorough and intense
- *Of what sort it is* – referring to the quality of our works
- This is the basis of evaluation by which rewards will be given or forfeited

Endures or *abides* – only the work that we have done that passes the test of time

- Doing a lot of activity does not bring a reward
- What matters is what God has assigned you to accomplish
- We should be focusing on those things that survive for generations
- This is what guarantees fruit that will remain for eternity
- We should not be living our life haphazardly or self-serving
- We should be striving to do things His way

Matthew 25:14-30 – Parable of the talents

“After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.” (Matthew 25:19, NKJV)

- *Settled accounts* or *reckoned* with them
 - *“to compare accounts”*
- A term as in an accountant putting together a P&L statement – examining the books (audit)
- This is not a surface review this is a thorough investigation
- The original word means *“to compare what was given to what the person actually did with what was given”*
- Did you increase what was given to you?
- It would be good to do a self-evaluation, often
- What have you done with the assignments, gifts, and talents He gave to you?
- Did you do anything with what He gave you?
- How have you built your life?
- Did you produce an increase or did it just stay the same?

“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.’”

(Matthew 25:23, NKJV)

Let me stress this will not be a whipping post situation but we will be evaluated on our obedience – a place of evaluation and designation

Five Different Crowns

- There may be more but the Bible clearly outlines five
- These are referring to the rewards given to believers who have been faithful with what God gave them to do

The crown of incorruption:

- This is sometimes called the *“incorruptible or imperishable crown”*

The apostle Paul describes it as a crown that will be given to believers who have practiced self-discipline in life and run a successful race of faith

“And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.” (1 Corinthians 9:25, NKJV)

The crown of rejoicing:

- It is often called the *“soul winner's crown”*
- Those who are very active in winning souls are going to receive a crown of rejoicing.
- *“He that wins souls is wise”* – Proverbs 11:30

“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?” (1 Thessalonians 2:19, NKJV)

The crown of righteousness:

It describes a crown that is given to those who are longing for Jesus' appearance and have lived a holy life in anticipation of His coming

“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:8, NKJV)

The crown of glory:

It's often called the “pastors' crown” because it is a crown that will be given to pastors who have faithfully fed and led their flocks

“and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.” (1 Peter 5:4, NKJV)

The crown of life:

It is often referred to as the “martyrs' crown” because this crown will be given to those who remained faithful, even as they suffered to do what God had called them to do

- Those who committed themselves to finish their race, regardless of the difficulties they encountered in life

“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” (James 1:12, NKJV)

“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10, NKJV)

These five crowns are literal crowns that Christ is going to place on the heads of those who stand before Him

They represent five kinds of rewards that Jesus will distribute according to what each believer has done with what he or she was given while on earth

“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:8, NKJV)

- What a holy and profound Day that will be
- That anticipated moment that we will stand before the Judgement seat of Christ
- We will STAND
- Not crawl or grovel

This thought should thrill our hearts! – Well Done!