



## Foundations of Assurance – Lesson #8

### Assurance of Eternal 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... but the decision to serve, and the diligence employed in doing so, are our responsibility and contribution, and **God sees this as rewardable.**”

Keathley, J. H. (2002). *ABCs For Christian Growth* (5th ed.). Biblical Studies Foundation. p. 89

**Ephesians 2:8-9** shows the place of good works relative to our eternal salvation:

- First, eternal **salvation is a gift** received by faith.
- Then, good works should follow – this is our purpose **as saved individuals**.

#### A. Eternal Rewards as a Theme in Scripture

- **Matthew 6:1-18** “your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly”
- **Matthew 6:19-21** “lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven”
- **Hebrews 6:10** “For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love”
- **1 Corinthians 15:58** “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”
- **1 Corinthians 3:13-14** “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.”
- **1 Corinthians 4:5** “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God.”
- **2 Corinthians 5:10** “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.
- **Romans 14:10** “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.”
- **Revelation 22:12** “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”
- (See also Luke 14:12-14, 1 John 2:28, 1 Tim. 6:18-19, 2 Tim. 4:8, 1 Cor. 9:25, James 1:12)

## B. What is the Judgment Seat of Christ?

1. The Judgment Seat of Christ is NOT a place for \_\_\_\_\_ you for \_\_\_\_\_.

a) The believer in Christ will \_\_\_\_\_ be punished for sin.

- “having been justified by faith, we have peace with God” (Romans 5:8)
- “He who believes in Him is not condemned” (John 3:18)
- “he who hears My word and believes... shall not come into judgment” (John 5:24)

b) Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ for all sin, and believers have been \_\_\_\_\_ eternally.

- “It is finished” (John 19:30)
- “And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses” (Col. 2:13)

2. The Judgment Seat of Christ is for \_\_\_\_\_ what eternal rewards you will receive.

a) Where?

- Christ’s “judgement seat” – which is a translation of the Greek word “\_\_\_\_\_” in Romans 14:10 and 2 Corinthians 5:10.

“This word [*bema*] was taken from Isthmian games where the contestants would compete for the prize under the careful scrutiny of judges who would make sure that every rule of the contest was obeyed. The victor of a given event who participated according the rules was led by the judge to the platform called the Bema. There the laurel wreath was placed on his head as a symbol of victory.”

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b) Who?

\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ only – “*your brother...we shall all stand before...*” (Rom. 14:10)

c) When?

At the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ for His church – “*the Day will declare it.*” (1 Cor 3:13)

- See also: Luke 14:12-14, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

d) What?

The \_\_\_\_\_ of believers will be evaluated and rewarded accordingly – “*each one’s work... If anyone’s work...*” (1 Cor. 3:13,15)

- See also: Revelation 22:12, 2 Corinthians 5:10

e) Why?

So we live \_\_\_\_\_ with an awareness of the eternal value of our decisions – “*let each one take heed how he builds...*” (1 Cor. 3:10)

- See also: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10