

The Judgment of the Believers' Works – Lesson 2 FAQ

August 10, 2025

1. What is the "Judgment Seat of Christ" and who is it for?

- The "Judgment Seat of Christ," also called the "Bēma Seat," is a judgment intended exclusively for believers in Christ.
 - It does **not** determine salvation or condemnation—eternal destiny is already secured through faith in Jesus.
 - Its purpose is to assess believers' works and service, revealing true motives and the lasting impact of their efforts for God.
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2. What is the purpose of the "Judgment Seat of Christ" for believers?

- The primary purpose is to reveal, test, and ultimately praise believers' works, leading to the distribution of rewards.
 - It is **not** a place for punishment for sins after salvation—sins past, present, and future were forgiven at the cross.
 - Each believer will give an account of themselves to God, and their actions will be evaluated for praise and reward.
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3. Will animals be in Heaven?

- Isaiah 11:6 (NKJV): *"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them."*
 - While Scripture suggests animals will be present in God's Kingdom, it does not specifically state whether individual pets will be there.
 - The overall teaching is that animals, as part of God's creation, will be in the future kingdom.
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4. What motivated the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

- **Jesus' Return and Rewards:** Paul believed Jesus would return and reward those who faithfully served Him. He wanted to hear "*Well done*" from Christ and maximize his potential for God's glory.
 - **The Love of Christ:** Paul was compelled by the love of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14).
 - **The Completeness of Christ's Work:** Paul understood that Christ's work was complete (2 Corinthians 5:17), and that people could be transformed by believing in Christ as Lord and Savior.
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5. Why should believers avoid judging the spiritual condition of others?

- It is God's role—not ours—to judge the heart.
 - All believers will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, giving account to God.
 - Judging others wastes time and can cause division in the church (as happened in Corinth).
 - God alone knows true motives and works, and He will reveal them in His time.
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6. How does the analogy of building and fire relate to the Judgment Seat of Christ?

- Believers are like builders, constructing on the foundation of Christ.
 - Paul called himself a "*wise master builder*" who laid the foundation (Christ and sound doctrine). Others build on it.
 - The "fire" represents the test of works at the Judgment Seat.
 - Works like *hay, straw, or stubble* (temporal, worthless works) will burn away, while lasting, eternal works will endure.
 - What survives the fire becomes the believer's reward and praise from God.
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7. What is the significance of "motive of the heart" at the Judgment Seat of Christ?

- God values the motive behind the action more than the action itself.
- Good motives can sometimes lead to mistakes; bad motives can result in seemingly good actions.

- 1 Corinthians 4:5 (NKJV): *"...the Lord 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."*
 - Christ-centered motives will be praised and lead to greater reward.
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8. What does "confession" mean in the context of a believer's relationship with God?

- **Greek:** *homologeo* (ho-mo-lo-GEH-oh) – “to say the same thing that God says.”
 - Confession does not earn forgiveness—sins are already forgiven at the cross.
 - Confession is agreeing with God about our sin, restoring fellowship (not salvation).
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Greek Words Used

- **homologeo** (*ho-mo-lo-GEH-oh*) – To say the same thing that God says; to agree with God.
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[1] Found in FAQ #8.