

UH LORD, IN MY DEFENSE, I DIDN'T THINK YOU SAW ME

2 Corinthians 5:10

INTRO: Turn your Bibles, or turn them on, to 2 Corinthians chapter 5. 2 Corinthians is the 8th book of the New Testament. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, then Acts, Romans, and then 1st and 2nd Corinthians. 2 Corinthians 5.

Today, I want to preach from God's Holy Word on a subject you don't hear much about in the modern church. I want to preach a few minutes about the coming judgement of God's children. If you are a Christian, meaning, a believer in Christ as your Lord and Savior, a follower of Christ and His commandments, if you have given your heart and life to Jesus, then someday, you are going to Heaven to be with God. You could be standing before Him TODAY! The Bible also teaches, that shortly after an event that most evangelicals call, the RAPTURE of the church, there will be a time when all God's children will stand before Him to be recompensed for the things they have done in this life. That occasion is known as THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST. And that's what I'm preaching about today. The title for my sermon is, "UH LORD, IN MY DEFENSE, I DIDN'T THINK YOU SAW ME" Haha, Yeah, He sees everything, and we're going to talk about it.

If you're new to church life, let me give you an eschatological timeline of events as they will occur in the last days. ESCHATOLOGY is a study of the "End Times" or "Last Things".

The Bible teaches that Christ, someday, and it could be today, will come back for the church, or His bride. He will not come back to earth this particular time, but will come back in the clouds, and call His children up to Himself. We call this the RAPTURE of the church. The reason we use this term, RAPTURE, is because of the Latin translation of the Greek word, Harpazo. Harpazo means "to seize" or "to snatch out and away" When the New Testament was translated into Latin, the Greek word Harpazo was translated in the Latin language as "rapio" which means to "snatch" or "catch away". When the Bible was translated into the English language many years later, the word Harpazo in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 was translated as two words, "CAUGHT UP". We simply use the word RAPTURE, from it's Latin root, RAPIO, to describe that great event of the church being snatched away, or caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. WHAT AN AWESOME THING!

At the rapture of the church, to keep it simple, a couple of things will take place. The church, that is every Christian, both dead and alive, from the time of Pentecost will be caught up and carried away with Jesus. The world, at the same time, will enter into a seven year period known as The Great Tribulation. The time of tribulation on earth will be an outpouring of God's judgement upon the world. It will be harsh, and multitudes of people will die. You DO NOT want to be here when this takes place. And you don't have to. Because, while The Great Tribulation is taking place on earth, all Christians will be in Heaven with Christ! During the same seven years that the earth is going through this time of tribulation, Christians will be with Jesus, and the first thing we will do is stand at the Judgement Seat of Christ. (*We'll come back to this*) After the giving out of rewards at the BEMA or Judgement seat, then there will be a celebration described in Scripture as The Marriage Supper of the Lamb. An you DON'T WANT to miss this!

After the tribulation and the events in Heaven, Jesus will come back to earth, and all the saints will be with Him. This is known as the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

When Christ comes back to earth, He will establish His Kingdom and there will be peace for 1000 years. We call this time the Millennial Reign of Christ. After 1000 years of peace, made possible because God had the Devil bound in chains and cast into the bottomless pit, after that, Satan will be loosed and he will deceive many that will try to go to war against Christ, but Jesus will cast the Devil into the lake of fire and brimstone where he will be tormented day and night forever!

And then will be the Great White Throne Judgement, where all sinners, of all times, everyone who rejected Jesus Christ as their Savior, will be judged and found guilty. And everyone of them will likewise be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, and will be tormented forever and ever.

After that, John, the writer of Revelation said, **Revelation 21:1-5** “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”

WOW, WHAT A DAY THAT WILL BE!

Now let's look at our Scripture for this morning.

1 Corinthians 5:10 (BSB) “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive his due for the things done in the body, whether good or bad.”

(KJV) “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.”

Romans 14:10-12 “Why, then, do you judge your brother? Or why do you belittle your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. 11 It is written: 'As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow before Me; every tongue will confess to God.' 12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.”

I don't know about you, but that last verse causes my knees to buckle just a bit. God help us all! Notice with me...

I) THE REVEALING: v 10a “For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ...” The first question we should ask when studying this verse is, WHO is the writer talking about. Paul is writing, and he's writing to the church at Corinth. He is speaking to a mostly Gentile group of Christians. People a lot like you and me. When Paul says, “we *must all*” appear before the judgement seat of Christ. He is talking about ALL CHRISTIANS OF ALL TIME! We, you and me, will stand before God someday to give a full account of those things we have done that we never asked His forgiveness of. HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THAT LATELY? Does that cause you to clear your throat, to race through your mind in search of things that may have slipped through the cracks, so to speak. If it hasn't yet, let's look at the next word...

I) THE REVEALING: v 10a CONTINUED “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,...” “APPEAR” If you’re not careful, you will read right past this word. We are all too familiar with what it means to be called in for a court appearance. When used that way, the word means to make an appearance, to show up! And here, the word is used in relation to a judgement, so it’s easy to assume that it means to just show up. But that’s not entirely true. There’s more to this word than just that. Let’s look at it.

“Appear” Greek Phanerōō (fan-er-o’-o) and it means, to make visible or known what has been hidden or unknown, to expose to view, make manifest, to show one’s self, to be plainly recognized, who and what one is.

Did you get that? This word is not speaking of our outward appearance. This is talking about WHO WE ARE INWARDLY. It’s talking about our actions and character! Not who we are at church, but who we are on the way home from church, and when we’re at work, or with our non-Christian friends. WHAT DO YOU LOOK LIKE THEN? You need to remember GOD SEES ALL and KNOWS ALL. AND WILL SOMEDAY BRING IT ALL OUT IN THE OPEN FOR EVERYONE TO SEE! Oh, help us Jesus.

One day there is going to be a great REVEALING of our lives. And everything you haven’t confessed to God and received His forgiveness for, will be put on display for all to see.

Bruce Hurt “If this truth does not put a holy fear of the Lord in you beloved, I don’t know what will! Jesus (Whose eyes are like a flame of fire! Rev 1:14-+) will be looking beyond the quantity of our works to the quality of our works”

Let’s look further...

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,...” Those two words, *Judgment Seat*, is translated from the Greek word, *Bema*. Many of the cities during Paul’s day had a bema in the center of town. It was a raised platform where an official would sit when rendering judgment in certain legal cases or athletic events.

It is from the throne of God that Jesus will judge our lives! Notice...

II) THE REWARDS: v 10b “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive his due for the things done in the body...”

The phrase, “*may receive his dues*” is translated from the word *Komizo* (kom-id-zo), which means, to receive something that is one’s own or is owed to one. It’s translated as, “*may receive his pay*” (Amplified), “*We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.*” (NLT), John Phillips translated it, “*and we shall be rewarded for what we did when we lived in our bodies.*”

When we stand before the judgement seat of Christ, it will not be to determine if we should be saved or not. That was SETTLED when we trusted Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Rather, we will stand before God to receive, be rewarded, for those things we did in our lives. THAT’S THE PURPOSE OF THE BEMA. But just because that’s what Jesus desires to do for us, doesn’t mean there won’t be many there who suffer loss instead. There will be! Remember the words of Peter in 2 Peter 3:9 “*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*” That’s what God desires of every man, woman, boy and girl in the world. But certainly that will not happen.

I) THE REVEALING: v 10a

II) THE REWARDS: v 10b CONTINUED Notice what Paul says back in his first letter to the Corinthians, 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 *“If anyone builds on this foundation (Jesus Christ) using gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, 13 his workmanship will be evident, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will prove the quality of each man’s work. 14 If what he has built survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss. He himself will be saved, but only as if through the flames.”*

Are you making an effort to receive anything from God when you stand before Him?

I don’t have time today to go into the crown’s that will be given as rewards to those who honored God with their lives and work for Him. Suffice it to say, that God has great gifts for those who are faithful in their service to Him!

Notice lastly...

III) THE RESPONSIBILITY: v 10c *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive his due for the things done in the body, whether good or bad.”* That phrase, *“whether good or bad.”* We have a great responsibility to check ourselves and make sure we are always doing what is GOOD and honoring of our Lord Jesus Christ. AND IT WILL PAY OFF SOMEDAY!

“Live today for the coming tomorrow”

How are you doing with that? Be truthful, If God called you home right now, and you stood at the judgement seat of God tonight, would you be okay? Don’t let your pride lie to you. Know for sure that everything would be alright! Make it right! Come spend a little time with God and ask His forgiveness where needed.

CONCLUSION: (Take them to the CROSS)