

JUDGMENT #1 The Bema Judgment

There are two important judgments for individuals in the future: Great White Throne Judgment and Judgment Seat of Christ (Bema).

I. The Meaning of Bema Judgment.

Bema is a Greek word translated in English as “judgment seat.”

At the Greek Olympics there was an elevated seat that the competitors would assemble before to receive their rewards and crowns.

II. The Fact of a Bema Judgment.

Rom. 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.** 11 For it is written: “As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.” 12 **So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.**

2 Cor. 5:9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 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.

III. The Purpose of the Bema Judgment

A. What the purpose of the Bema Judgment is not.

1. Not to determine if we are going to heaven or not.
2. Not to punish us for sins committed either before or after saved.
3. Not purgatory.

Our salvation is based on grace.

Eph. 2⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. NIV

B. What the purpose of the Bema Judgment is.

1 Cor. 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

We will give an account as stewards of our Lord.

- a. In the **past**, God dealt with us as **sinner**s.
- b. In the **present**, God deals with us as **sons**.
- c. In the **future**, He will deal with us at the bema as **stewards**.

What happens at the judgment seat can have permanent consequences.

Just as there are degrees of punishment in hell and there are degrees of reward in heaven.

IV. The Time of the Bema.

It is between the Rapture and the second Return of Christ to the earth.

V. What will be judged at the Bema Judgment.

1 Cor. 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13

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. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

A. Those indestructible and worthy objects: gold, silver, and precious stones.

1. How we treated others.

Heb. 6:10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Matt. 10:41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

2. How we used authority over others.

Heb. 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account.

Jas. 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

3. How we used our God-given abilities.

1 Cor. 12:4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

1 Pet. 4:10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

4. How we used our money.

1 Tim. 6:17-19 17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Give our tithes. Give offerings to church, missions, and the needy.

5. How we spent our time.

Eph. 5:15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

6. How much we suffered for Jesus

Mt. 5:11,12 11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven

Mk. 10:29,30 “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.

Rom. 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

7. How many souls we witness to and win to Christ.

B. Those destructible and worthless objects: wood, hay and stubble

What the fire cannot purify, it destroys, and what the fire cannot destroy, it purifies.

All that has been done with wrong motive in the name of Christ or selfishness will with consider worthless.

VI. The Results of the Bema Judgment.

A. Some will receive rewards.

1 Cor. 3:14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

Note the following five crowns:

1. Incorruptible Crowns = 1 Cor. 9:24-27
2. Crowns of Rejoicing = 1 Thess. 2:19,20
3. Crown of Life = Rev. 2:10
4. Crown of Righteousness = 2 Tim. 4:8
5. Crown of Glory = 1 Pet. 5:2-4 Pastors

B. Some will suffer loss.

1 Cor. 3:15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss

Can a person lose their rewards in heaven through carnality on earth?

2 John. 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.

Rev. 3:11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Paul gives us the mind set as to how we are to approach life knowing that we will stand before Christ and give account.

1Co. 9²⁴ Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win!²⁵ All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize.²⁶ So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing.²⁷ I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified. NLT

Earl Radmacher says that “the person I am becoming today, is preparing me for the person I shall be for all of eternity.”

Only in this life can we impact our eternity.