

"WHAT HAPPENS IN HEAVEN AFTER THE RAPTURE"

2 Cor. 5:9-10

INTRODUCTION: Scripture teaches us that the Second Coming of Christ will consist of two stages: (#1) the Rapture, when He comes as a **thief**, and (#2) the Revelation, when He comes in clouds of glory at the end of the tribulation.

A. Most of the preaching done today about Christ's Second Coming has to do with world conditions (signs) at His coming OR conditions in the Church at the time of the rapture.

B. Even more preaching is done on the subject of what will take place on earth during the tribulation period. (Mark of Beast, antichrist, etc.)

C. The question needs to be asked and answered: "What will take place in heaven after the true believers, that are raptured, meet the Lord?"

I. FIRST THERE WILL BE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.

2 Cor 5:10 "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." **WHO ARE THE "WE"?**

Rom 14:10 "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."

A. What does the Word of God teach about the Judgment Seat of Christ? That is a message within itself! I can tell you that: Only the saved will be judged there. 2 Cor 5:10 (above).

2 Cor. 5:8 "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

1. **Our judgment** will be according to that we have done, **whether good or bad.**

B. The **unsaved** will be judged at the "White Throne Judgement". **There it will be a matter of heaven or hell!**

Rev 20:11-15 "And I saw a great white throne, and him that 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, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were

judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.** **Is your's there??**

C. The Judgment Seat of Christ **will be a time of testing of our works.**

1 Cor 3:11-15 "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation ¹gold, ²silver, ³precious stones, ⁴wood, ⁵hay, ⁶stubble; **Every man's work shall be made manifest**: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and **the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.** (14) **If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.** If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but **he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.**"

1. **What does your work consists of? What will the fire show?**

D. **It will be a time of rewards.** Verse 14 (**bold faced above.**) **What kind of rewards?**

1. **The Crown Of Life will be given.** **To whom? Everybody? No! Only those who endured temptations and trials, and remained faithful.**

James 1:12 "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried (approved), he shall **receive the crown of life**, which the Lord hath **promised to them that love him.**"

John 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (in the midst of trials, temptations, etc.)

a. We may have eternal life through faith in Christ **without** ever having the Crown of Life.

b. **Faithfulness** to Christ in keeping His commandments in times of testing and trials, and having a sincere, whole-hearted love for Him is **necessary to win the Crown of Life.**

Rev 2:10 "Fear none of those things which thou (Smyrna Church) shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: **be thou faithful unto death**, and **I will give thee a crown of life.**" (Unto = "Be thou faithful if it kills you!")

2. **The Crown Of Righteousness will be given.** **Will it be given to Everyone?**
Sad to say but **"No!"**

2 Tim 4:7-8 "I have ¹fought a good fight, I have ²finished my course, I have ³kept the **faith**: Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but **unto all them also that love his appearing.**"

a. Crown of righteousness will be given for **faithfulness in service as a result of loving the coming of Christ.** **The truth of His coming is to have a powerful influence in "righting" our lives.** **1 John 3:1-3**

3. **The Incorruptible Crown will be given.**

1 Cor 9:25 "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they (Olympic participants) do it to **obtain** a corruptible crown; but we an **incorruptible.**"

a. We know that **much self-denial was practiced by Olympic participants to gain the glory and honor of a corruptible crown.**

b. **By the same token, we must deny self and keep the body under if we are to obtain a crown of glory, and honor and power that is incorruptible.**

c. The Incorruptible crown will be awarded to **those with singleness of purpose, who are temperant in all things.**

Phil 4:5 "Let your **moderation** be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."

4. **The Crown Of Glory will be given.**

1 Pet. 5:2 "**Feed the flock of God** which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And **when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.**"

a. This crown will be given to ¹faithful ministers, ²Sunday School Teachers, ³Training Hour Teachers, ⁴Boys Brigade Teachers, ⁵Girls Club Teachers. ⁶All those involved in feeding others spiritually that are among us.

5. **The Crown Of Rejoicing will be given** - **Perhaps the greatest and brightest crown of all. WHY?? IT'S THE SOUL-WINNERS CROWN!!**

1 Thes. 2:19-20 "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy."

Prov. 11:30 "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and **he that winneth souls is wise.**" [He that does not is otherwise!]

Dan. 12:3 "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firma-ment; **and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.**"

2 John 1:8 "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

Rev 22:12 "And, behold, I come quickly; and **my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**"

6. **Do we really believe this, if so why is it so difficult to get us to do something?**

II. ALL OF GOD'S WAYS IN DEALING WITH BELIEVERS WILL BE UNDERSTOOD.

1 Cor 13:12 "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

A. Then we will understand perfectly why God permitted persecutions trials,

sickness, temptations, etc.

B. This will be of minor importance when compared to the glory that is to be ours.

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

III. THEN WILL FOLLOW THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB

Rev 19:7-9 *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, **Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.** And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."*

A. The Bride will have made herself ready and righteousness will be paramount.

1. We will be in perfect harmony at the supper; no discord nor strife.

2. The wedding bond will never be broken; not by divorce, not by sin, nor by death.

CONCLUSION: DO YOU HAVE ON THE WEDDING GARMENT?

A. **HAVE YOU KEPT YOURSELF WITHOUT SPOT, WITHOUT WRINKLE, WITHOUT BLEMISH, OR ANY SUCH THING? (EPH. 5:25-27).**

B. **ARE YOU LABORING THAT YOU MIGHT BE ACCEPTED OF HIM? (TEXT)**

C. Are you discouraged, or confused?? Is Satan trying to get you to give up or quit serving God? If so the answer is found in:

Rev 3:10-11 *"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."*

1. **Satan doesn't want us to have crowns to cast at the feet of Jesus like the 24 elders.**

Rev 4:10-11 *"The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and **cast their crowns** before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."*

D. Be determined, hold that fast which thou hast and don't let Satan or anyone else take your crown (s). **Come and pray and get a renewed determination.**

E. *If you are not saved, or are backslidden, or lukewarm then you need to be more concerned about what will take place in the tribulation, because you won't be going in the Rapture!!*

1. *And this is where you are headed right now!!*

PAGE

PAGE 2

"WHAT HAPPENS IN HEAVEN AFTER THE RAPTURE"

35

35