

## THE BEMA SEAT OF CHRIST

End Times Bible Study – Pt. 7

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### THE BEMA SEAT OF CHRIST IS:

A time **after** the **Rapture** where **all** Church Age believers (those who lived from Pentecost to the Rapture) will **stand** before Jesus Christ to **receive** rewards for the **faithful administration** of the **time**, **talents**, and **treasures** that they were **created** in Christ Jesus to **do**.

### I. A DAY OF REWARD IS COMING FOR EVERY DISCIPLE

Jesus talked about **rewards** for **faithful stewardship** and **service** (Lk. 19 & Matt. 25).

*“A **man** of noble birth went to a **distant** country to have himself **appointed** king and then to **return**. So, he called ten of his **servants** and **gave** them **ten minas** (about 3 months wages). ‘Put this money **to work**,’ he said, ‘until I come back.’” Lk. 19:12*

The Apostle **Paul** looked **forward** to his **reward**:

*“I have **fought** the good **fight**, I have **finished** the **race**, I have **kept** the **faith**. Now there is **in store for me the crown of righteousness** which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will **award me on that day**—and not only to me, but also to **all** who have longed for his appearing.” 2 Tim. 4:7-8*

“that day” refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

This time of **reward** is referred to as: 1) God’s **judgement seat**, 2) The **Judgement Seat of Christ**.

### II. UNDERSTANDING THE BEMA SEAT OF CHRIST

*“For we will **all stand before God’s judgement seat**. It is written: ‘As surely as I live’, says the Lord, ‘**every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.**’ So then, **each of us will give an account of himself** to God.” Rom. 14:10-12*

*“For we must **all appear before the judgement seat of Christ**, that each one may **receive** what is due him for the **things done while in the body**, whether **good or bad.**” 2 Cor. 5:10-12*

## WHAT THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST IS **NOT**:

1. the Judgement Seat of **Christ** is **NOT** the \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Then I saw a **great white throne** and **him** who was **seated** on it. Earth and sky **fled** from his **presence**, and there was no place for them. And I saw the **dead**, great and small, **standing** before the **throne**, and **books were opened**. Another **book** was opened, which is the **book of life**. The **dead** were **judged** according to what they had **done as recorded** in the **books**.” Rev. 20:11-12*

**NOTE:** The **Great White Throne Judgement** is the **final judgement after** the Millennial Kingdom and is the **judgement for everyone** throughout the ages who have **rejected** Jesus Christ as **Lord** and **Savior**.

*“If **anyone’s** name was **not** found written in the **book of life**, he was **thrown** into the **lake of fire**.”  
Rev. 20:15*

2. The Judgement Seat of **Christ** does **NOT** **determine** the eternal **destiny** of a believer.

The **Bible** clearly **affirms** that the **moment** you **trust** Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior, your eternal **destiny** is **determined**; your **sins** are **forgiven** (Rom. 10:9-10), you attain a **righteous** standing **before** God in **Christ** (1 Cor. 1:30), you become a **child** of God (Jn. 1:12), a **citizen** of heaven (Phil. 3:20), a co-heir with Christ (Rom. 8:17), a partaker of the divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4) and as such you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14) and saved from eternal punishment in Hell (Jn. 3:18).

*“That if you **confess** with your mouth, ‘Jesus is **Lord**,’ and **believe** in your **heart** that God **raised** him from the dead, you **will be saved**.” Rom. 10:9*

*“For **God** so **loved** the world that he **gave** his one and only **Son**, that **whoever believes** in him shall **not perish** but have **eternal life** . . . . **whoever believes** in him is **not condemned** . . . .” Jn. 3:16 & 18*

Jesus said:

*“My **sheep** listen to my **voice**; I know them, and they **follow** me. **I give** them **eternal life**, and **they shall never perish**; no one can **snatch** them out of my **hand**. My Father, who has given them to me, is **greater** than **all**; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. **I and the Father are one**.” Jn. 10:27-30*

*“Having **believed**, you were **marked** in him with a **seal**, the **promised** Holy Spirit, who is a **deposit guaranteeing** our **inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God’s possession...”*

Eph. 1:13-14

*“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...”*

Romans 8:1

#### WHAT THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST IS:

*“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” 2 Cor. 5:10-12*

*“judgment seat” = “bema” (Greek)*

The Bema seat is the **platform** from which the **judges** of the **Isthmian** and **Olympic** Games would **reward** the winners.

*“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.” 1 Cor. 9:24-25*

*“... let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” Heb. 12:1*

#### GOD'S REWARDS SHOULD MOTIVATE FAITHFUL LIVING

*“I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 3:14*

*“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” 2 Cor. 5:10-12*

A better **translation** for the word **“bad”** is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Live** each day of your life in such a **way** that it will **contribute** to your **reward** in heaven.

## WHY GOOD WORKS MATTER

*“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Eph. 2:10*

**NOTE:** Good works are important because God gave them to you to do! God created a life, a race just for you and you need to run your race faithfully. Remember, your Good Works have nothing to do with whether or not you’re going to Heaven when you die. But they have everything to do with the rewards you will receive and enjoy for the rest of eternity.

## III. HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE BEMA SEAT OF CHRIST

*“By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.” 1 Cor. 3:10-11*

## A SAMPLE OF PAUL’S DOCTRINE OF JESUS CHRIST AS THE FOUNDATION

### 1. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ .

*“For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.” Col. 1:16-18*

*“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him . . . .” Col. 1:19*

*“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form . . . .” Col. 2:9*

### 2. Jesus is a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ .

*“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” 2 Cor. 13:14*

### 3. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead.

*“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.” 1 Cor. 15:3-5*

4. Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ on the cross paid the \_\_\_\_\_ for all sin.

"You **were** dead because of your **sins** and because your sinful **nature** was not yet **cut** away. Then God **made** you **alive** with Christ, for he **forgave all our sins**. He **canceled** the record of the **charges against us** and **took it away by nailing it to the cross**." Col. 2:13-14

"God **presented** him as a **sacrifice** of atonement, through **faith** in his **blood**." Rom. 3:25

5. Jesus gives \_\_\_\_\_ life.

"Christ Jesus **came** into the world to **save** sinners—of whom I am the **worst**. But for that very **reason** I was shown **mercy** so that in me, the worst of **sinners**, **Christ** Jesus might **display** his **unlimited patience** as an **example** for those who would **believe on him and receive eternal life**." 1 Tim. 1:15-16

6. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ again.

"For the Lord **himself** will **come down** from **heaven**, with a **loud** command, with the **voice** of the archangel and with the **trumpet** call of God, and the **dead** in Christ will rise **first**." 1 Thess. 4:16

7. Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_ all believers one day.

"For **we** must all **appear** before the **judgment** seat of **Christ**, that each one may **receive** what is due him for the **things done** while in the **body**, whether good or bad." 2 Cor. 5:10-12

8. Jesus made Paul an \_\_\_\_\_.

"Paul, an **apostle**—sent **not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead**" Gal. 1:1

9. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church.

". . . **Christ** is the **head** of the church, his body, of which he is the **Savior**." Eph. 5:23

10. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ .

"You are all **sons** of God through faith in Christ Jesus . . . There is **neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one** in Christ Jesus. If you **belong** to Christ, then you are **Abraham's seed, and heirs** according to the **promise**." Gal. 3:26 & 28-29

“If any **man builds on this foundation** using **gold, silver, costly stones**, wood, hay or straw, his **work** will be **shown** for what it is, because **the Day** will bring it to **light**. It will be **revealed** with **fire**, and the **fire** will **test** the **quality** of each man's work.” 1 Cor. 3:12-13

“His **eyes** are like blazing **fire** . . . .” Rev. 19:12

“Therefore **judge** nothing before **the appointed time**; **wait** till the Lord **comes**. He will **bring** to **light** what is **hidden** in darkness and **will expose** the **motives** of men's hearts. At **that time** each will **receive** his praise from God.” 1 Cor. 4:5

**THE TWO SETS OF LIFE BUILDING MATERIALS**

**SET 1:** \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ .

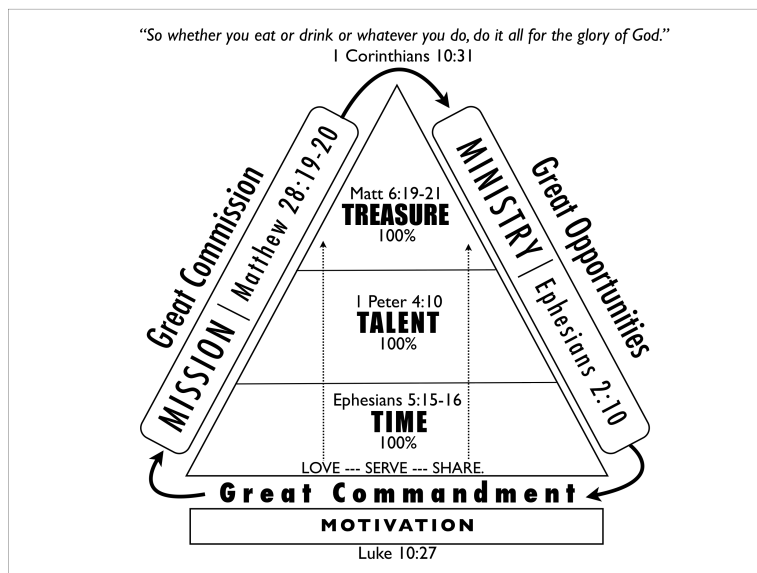
“If what he has built **survives**, he will **receive** his **reward**.”(v. 14)

**SET 2:** \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ .

“If it is **burned** up, he will suffer **loss**; he himself **will be saved**, but only as one **escaping** through the **flames**.” (v. 15)

**IV. BUILDING MY LIFE WITH GOLD, SILVER & PRECIOUS STONES**

“So, **whether** you eat or drink or **whatever** you do, **do it all for the glory** of God.” 1 Cor. 10:31



At the **base** is the Great Commandant—(MY Motivation)

*“Love the Lord your God with **all your heart** and with **all your soul** and with **all your strength** and with **all your mind**.” Lk. 10:27*

On the **left** is the Great Commission (My Mission):

*“Therefore **go** and **make disciples** of **all nations**, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> and **teaching** them to **obey** everything I have **commanded** you.” Matt. 28:21-20*

On the **right** are Great Opportunities (My Ministry):

*“For we are **God’s workmanship**, **created** in Christ Jesus to do good **works**, which God **prepared** in **advance** for us to **do**.” Eph. 2:10*

If I **choose** to make a **great commitment** to THE GREAT COMMANDMENT and THE GREAT COMMISSION God will open up GREAT OPPORTUNITIES for me to minister to others for the glory of God.

### THE THREE ELEMENTS GOD GAVE ME TO STEWARD WELL

My \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 5:15-16)

*“Be very **careful**, then, how you **live**—not as **unwise** but as **wise**, making the most of every opportunity, because the **days** are **evil**.” Eph. 5:15-16*

My \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Pet. 4:10)

*“Each one should **use** whatever **gift** he has **received** to **serve** others, faithfully **administering** God’s **grace** in its **various** forms.” 1 Pet. 4:10*

My \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 6:19-20)

*“Do **not** store up for yourselves **treasures** on **earth**, where **moth** and **rust** **destroy**, and where **thieves** break in and **steal**. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your **treasure** is, there your **heart** will be also.” Matthew 6:19-20*

How I **choose** to use my **time**, my **talent** and my **treasure** determines if I'm using gold, silver or precious stones, wood, hay or straw. And **anytime** I use my **Spiritual Gifts**, motivated by **love**, and for the **glory of God** I am using **worthy** materials that will be **rewarded** at the **Bema Seat of Christ**.

*"And if **anyone** gives even a **cup** of cold **water** to one of these **little** ones **because** he is my **disciple**, I tell you the **truth**, he will **certainly not lose** his **reward**."* Matt. 10:42

## V. JESUS' REWARDS (4 Categories)

**CATEGORY 1: Greater opportunities for** \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Matt. 25:19-23 & Lk. 19:16-19)

**CATEGORY 2: The experience of greater** \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Matt. 25:21 & 23; 1 Pet. 4:12-13)

**CATEGORY 3:** \_\_\_\_\_ **commendation**.  
(Matt. 25:21).

**CATEGORY 4:** \_\_\_\_\_:

**THE** \_\_\_\_\_ **CROWN**. (1 Cor. 9:25)  
How well we **master** our own **bodies**, resist sin and use them for the **work** of the Lord.

**THE CROWN OF** \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Thess. 2:19)  
Pertains to **winning** people to **Christ** through **evangelism**.

**THE CROWN OF** \_\_\_\_\_. (Jas. 1:12)  
How I **respond** to **trials** in life.

**THE CROWN OF** \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Tim. 4:8)  
How we anticipate the **return** of the Lord at the **Rapture**.

**THE CROWN OF** \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Pet. 5:4)  
Pertains to the **skillful** work of **shepherding** the **flock** of God.