

CrossRoads Baptist Church
November 8, 2006 6:30 p.m.
II Corinthians 5:9-10
Eternity: Heaven or Hell #9

“Will There Be Any Stars in My Crown?”

This is called the bema seat. Every greco roman country of any importance had a bema seat. In the ancient ruins of Corinth the best example of this place is found. At the termination of a long road that is lined with columns there is a large raised platform. This is the bema, which is really a review stand. An army that returns from a successful field campaign parades past the Emperor and His officials. Each battalion would stop to receive special metals of commendation.

So will we as Christians stand before Jesus Christ to receive our rewards for the battle here on Earth. This judgment will take place immediately following the rapture of the church. All the believing dead who have gone before us will be there and every Christian alive at the coming of the Lord will be there.

Let me attempt to answer some questions about this judgment:

I. What is the reason for this judgment?

- A. This judgment will not determine if one is saved or not.
- B. This judgment will not deal with the confessed sins of Christians.
- C. This judgment will reveal our works.

II. What will this judgment reveal?

I Corinthians 4: 4-5

A. This judgment will reveal the motives of why we worked.

Bad motives will corrupt good works.

- 1. Praise – do we do what we do for the praise of people or the recognition of people?

Ephesians 6:7 “With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men.”
Colossians 3:23 “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not to men.”

2. Position – did we do what we did for position?

B. This judgment will reveal the methods used for our work.

Luke 19: 11-27 The end does not justify the means. God wants quantity, but how we do it is also important. Our methods must be pure. We shouldn't use just any means to get people or we can't just do anything any way.

C. This judgment will reveal the management of our work.

What did we do with what we had.

Jesus told the parable of the ten pounds in Luke 19: 11-27 and a similar story about talents in Matthew 25: 14-30.

The great teaching of these parables is that those who are faithful in assigned spiritual tasks in this life will be rewarded by increased authority in the age to come.

III. What will be the rewards of this judgment?

A. The reward of responsibility.

Matthew 25: 21 “Well done, good and faithful servant. Thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things, enter into the joy of the Lord.”

In Luke 19, its ruling over cities.

B. The reward of adornment

When we search the Scriptures you see five different crowns that are given to believers for various reasons:

1. The Victor's Crown

I Corinthians 9:24-25

“Know you not that they that run in a race run all, but one received the prize? So run, that you may obtain. And every man that strives for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible.”

This is the crown made of actual vines and leaves that was given at the bema to those who were victors for the day. Agony for self control is the requirement for this reward. They were those who had self control enough to purge themselves from inducements and pleasures for this world to gain a crown.

2. The Crown of Rejoicing

I Thess. 2:19 “For what is our hope, our joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?”

This is the soul winners crown of rejoicing. Every time you come across someone you led to Christ it will be a crown of rejoicing.

3. The Crown of Righteousness

II Timothy 4:8 “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 of them also that love His appearing.”

Sadly even believers can become tied to this world and lose the inner desire to long for His coming and to be totally righteous. The ever immediate knowledge of His coming should cause us to live a life of total righteousness in all purity and holiness.

4. The Crown of Life

James 1: 12 “Blessed is the man that endured temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love Him.”

Revelation 2: 10 “I will give thee a crown of life.”

All of God’s saints that have stood for what is right in a crooked and perverse world will receive this crown. This is given to those who have suffered much for Christ.

5. The Crown of Glory

I Peter 5:1-4 tells about a crown that will go to all who have been faithful pastors or undershepherds in God’s work.

But all rewards are for the glory of God, not man.

Revelation 4: 10-11 – all rewards will be cast at the feet of Jesus as He alone is worthy.

IV. What will be the ruins of this judgment?

Those who lose rewards

I Corinthians 3: 14-15 you can lose your reward, but will be saved.

III John 8 “Look to yourselves that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.”

I John 2:28 you can be ashamed at His coming because you may not receive a crown or have much to present to Him.