**Aim For Heaven!**

**Colossians 3**

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

In **Revelation 20:11-15** John describes The Great White Throne Judgment.

1. It will be a place of **condemnation**.
2. It will be a place to which all those who refused God’s grace and mercy will be **summoned**.
3. It will be a place where **the lost** will stand before Jesus to be judged because they refused to come to Him in this life.

**Romans 8:1** “Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

We believers will be invited to stand before Jesus at the **judgment seat** of Christ.

1. The Greek word from which we get this phrase *judgment seat* is ***bema***.
2. One day, all believers will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive their **reward**.

**Revelation 22:12** Jesus says, “Behold, I am coming soon! My **reward** is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.”

**Matthew 5:12** “Rejoice and be glad, because great is your **reward** in heaven.”

“The Bible tells us that after the church is taken to heaven…individual believers will be judged for their works done in the body as Christians. At that time, special rewards will be handed out.”—**David Jeremiah**

**Romans 14:10** “For we (believers) will all stand before God’s judgment seat.”

**[SAFELY HOME slide]**

According to Scripture there are **five crowns** that will be handed out:

1. The Crown of **Victory**!

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27** “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. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for **the prize**.”

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose!”
 —**Jim Elliott**

“Only one life. ‘Twill soon be past. Only what’s done for Christ will last!”
 —**C. T. Studd**

1. The Crown of **Rejoicing**!

**1 Thessalonians 2:19** “For what is our hope, our joy, or the **crown** in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?”

1. The Crown of **Righteousness**!

**2 Timothy 4:7-8** “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 to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”

1. The Crown of **Life**!

**James 1:12** “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the **crown of life** that God has promised to those who love him.”

1. The Crown of **Glory**!

**1 Peter 5:4** “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the **crown of glory** that will never fade away.”

**Colossians 3**

Paul gives **three commands** (exhortations) on how to run the race to win the prize:

1. Set your **focus** on heaven. Live each day with a **heavenly mindset**. Verses 1 and 2
2. As believers we are **citizens** of heaven.

**Philippians 3:19-20** “Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven.”

1. Paul gives two conditions that are true of every believer. Verses 1 and 3
2. A believer has been **raised** with Christ and **seated** with him at the right hand of God.
3. A believer has **died** with Christ and his life is now hidden in Christ.
4. A fundamental truth: The essence of being a Christian is that you are **in Christ**. This means that everything that is **actually** true of Jesus Christ is **legally** true of you.
5. This is the essence of salvation: Jesus **substituting** Himself for you and for me.

**Romans 8:14-17** “Because those who are led by the Spirit of God, are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his suffering in order that we may also share in his glory.”

 **1 Corinthians 7:31** “For this world in its present form is passing away.”

**James 4:14** “You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”

**Matthew 6:19-21** “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.”

2. **Put to death** whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Verses 5-11

 A. What does it mean to put these sins to death?

1. We have **died** with Christ.

**Romans 6:6**-**7** “For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.”

2. Sin still attacks us and so it must be **killed** by the power of the Spirit through the Word.

 “Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you.”—**John Owen**

**Romans 8:9, 13** “You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit if the Spirit of God lives in you…For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.”

1. God’s **Spirit** will work in you to help you kill sin in your life.

3. **Clothe yourself** with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Furthermore, we are to forgiveothers and put on **love** which binds all of these virtues together. Verses 12-14

 A. Five practical disciplines in my life:

 1. Spending time in the **Word** of God every day.
2. Spending time alone with God in **prayer** every day.
3. Spending time in a men’s **Bible study.**
4. Spending time with other believers in a Bible believing **church**.
5. Spending time with other believers in Christian **fellowship**.

**Philippians 1:6** “Being confident of this that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

B.Our goal is to be **like** Christ. We are a work in process. One day, when we cross the finish line, we will be like Jesus.

**1 John 3:2** “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.”

1. What should you do for the rest of your life as you run this race?

**Verses 23-24**: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a **reward**. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”