

Thursology 97: I Thought Only *UNBELIEVERS* Will Be Judged!!! **So What's This About the Judgment Seat of Christ???**

(Thursology Live! 3/2/2023)

--Eternal LIFE...versus...eternal REWARDS

--I Cor 3:1-3: And I, *brethren*, could not speak to you as to *spiritual* men, but as to men of flesh, as to *babes* in Christ. I gave you *milk* to drink, not *solid food*; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still *fleshly*. For since there is *jealousy and strife* among you, are you not *fleshly*, and are you not walking like mere men?

--Key Concept #1: Paul's audience are _____ *believers*...they're *all* _____

--Key Concept #2: There are _____ kinds of *believers*...
_____...and _____

--What the purpose of the Judgment Seat of Christ is NOT...

--Non-purpose #1: The purpose of the Judgment Seat of Christ is *not*...to determine whether an individual _____ eternal _____ or not

--Non-purpose #2: The purpose of the Judgment Seat of Christ is *not*...to _____ believers for their _____

--Buried...forgotten...wiped out...paid for!!!

--Isa 38:17: "...it is You who has kept my soul from the pit...for You have *cast all my sins behind Your back*."

--Isa 44:22: "I have *wiped out* your transgressions like a thick cloud and your sins like a heavy mist..."

--Micah 7:19: "...He will *tread our iniquities under foot*. Yes, You will cast all their sins *into the depths of the sea*."

--Heb 8:12: "For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and *I will remember their sins no more*."

--Psa 103:12: *As far as the east is from the west*, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

--Isa 53:4-6, 11-12: Surely *our* griefs He Himself bore, and *our* sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for *our* transgressions, He was crushed for *our* iniquities; the chastening for *our* well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging *we* are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of *us* all to fall on Him...the Righteous One, My Servant...will bear their iniquities...He Himself bore the sin *of many* and interceded for *the transgressors*.

--Understanding the Judgment Seat of Christ:

--Concept #1: At the Judgement Seat of Christ...*every* believer will give an
_____ for their _____

--Rom 14:1-4, 10-12: Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him

stand...But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

--Concept #2: At the Judgement Seat of Christ...every believer will be _____ for their _____

--II Cor 1:1-2: Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God which is at Corinth with all the saints who are throughout Achaia..."

--II Cor 5:10: For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

--V. 10-11: According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

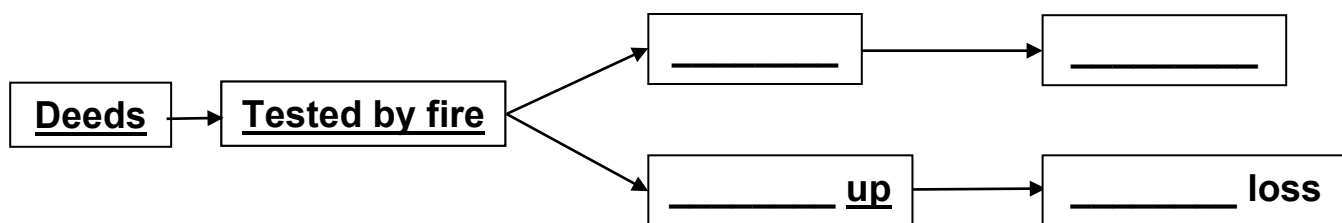
--Vv. 12: Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident...

--Key Concept #1: There are two kinds of _____ to use to build on the _____ of Christ!!!

--Vv. 13: "...each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire..."

--Vv. 13-15: "...and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."

--Key Concept #2: The _____ isn't tested by fire...but their _____ and _____ are!!!



--An Old Testament picture of the Judgment Seat of Christ:

--II Chron 17:3-6: The Lord was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the example of his father David's earlier days and did not seek the Baals, but sought the God of his father, followed His commandments, and did not act as Israel did.

--Point #1: Jehoshaphat was a _____ King and a _____ follower of God

--II Chron 20:3-4: Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to seek help from the Lord; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the Lord.

--Vv. 5-6; 10-12: Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord before the new court, and he said, "O Lord, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You...Now behold, the sons of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir...are coming to drive us out from Your possession which You have given us as an inheritance. O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You."

--V. 17: You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the Lord is with you."

--Vv. 20-22; 27-30: They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the Lord your God and you will be established. Put your trust in His prophets and succeed." When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the Lord and those who praised Him in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, "Give thanks to the Lord, for His lovingkindness is everlasting." When they began singing and praising, the Lord set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were routed...

--Vv. 27-30: Every man of Judah and Jerusalem returned with Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the Lord had made them to rejoice over their enemies. They came to Jerusalem with harps, lyres and trumpets to the house of the Lord. And the dread of God was on all the kingdoms of the lands when they heard that the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel. So the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God gave him rest on all sides.

--Point #2: Jehoshaphat received God's _____,
_____, and _____ for his faithfulness

--II Chron 20:35-37: After this, Jehoshaphat king of Judah allied himself with Ahaziah king of Israel. He acted wickedly in so doing. So he allied himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish, and they made the ships in Ezion-geber. Then Eliezer the son of Dodavahu of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat saying, "Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah, the Lord has destroyed your works." So the ships were broken and could not go to Tarshish.

--Key Concept: Even though Jehoshaphat was _____...his
_____ that were done apart from faithful _____...were
_____!!!

Thursology 96: The Great Surprise About the “Hereafter”: **If You Love YOUR Ways...You'll HATE Heaven!!!**

(Thursology Live! 2/2/2023)

--Heaven and Eternal Life:

--John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

--Key Concept: The **GREAT** purpose for God's love for the world is for us to have **LIFE**...and...have it...**ETERNALLY**

--Understanding Eternal Life:

--Precept #1: Heaven is a **REAL** place where we will dwell with Christ **FOREVER**

--John 14:1-3: Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

--Heb 11:8-10; 13-16: By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God...All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

--Precept #2: While going to Heaven is **PART** of what eternal life means...it isn't the **SAME** thing as eternal life

--An outrageous...but true...concept: Eternal life isn't primarily a place where believers go in the **FUTURE**...rather...it's primarily **JOINING** in the life of God...in the **PRESENT**!!!

--John 3:26: “He who believes in the Son **HAS** eternal life...”

--John 10:10: “I came that they might **HAVE** life, and might **HAVE** it abundantly.”

--John 17:1-3: Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

--Jesus' explicit definition: “This **IS** eternal life, that they may **KNOW** You, the only true God...”

--John 5:39-40: You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

--**Precept #3:** Thinking that getting “**SAVED**” is something that I **DID** in the **PAST**...is a **grossly inadequate** concept of **SALVATION**!!!

--Errors related to salvation:

--Error #1: Baptismal Regeneration: The **ACT** of being baptized **CONFERS** salvation

--Error #2: Having **HOPE** in a **PAST** experience

--**Application:** If you believe that there's a complete “discontinuity” between “**THIS**” life and the “**NEXT**” life...you have a complete misunderstanding of **ETERNAL** life!!!

--John 5:11-12: And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

--**Key Concept #1:** The tenses of this passage show us the biblical concept that there's a **CONTINUITY** between **ETERNAL** life...and life in the present **TENSE**!!!

--“This life”-----**DEATH**-----“The next life”

--II Cor 5:6-9: “...while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord...I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.”

--**Key Concept #2:** Paul considered the **TRANSITION** from this life...to the next life to be...**TRIVIAL**!!!

--I Cor 15:51: “...we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye...”

--Luke 8:40-42; 49-55: And as Jesus returned, the people welcomed Him, for they had all been waiting for Him. And there came a man named Jairus, and he was an official of the synagogue; and he fell at Jesus' feet, and began to implore Him to come to his house; for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, and she was dying. But as He went, the crowds were pressing against Him...While He was still speaking, someone came from the house of the synagogue official, saying, “Your daughter has died; do not trouble the Teacher anymore.” But when Jesus heard this, He answered him, “Do not be afraid any longer; only believe, and she will be made well.” When He came to the house...they were all weeping and lamenting for her; but He said, “Stop weeping, for she has not died, but is asleep.” And they began laughing at Him, knowing that she had died. He, however, took her by the hand and called, saying, “Child, arise!” And her spirit returned, and she got up immediately; and He gave orders for something to be given her to eat.

--John 11:1, 3-4; 11-17; 21-26: Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha...So the sisters sent word to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.” But when Jesus heard this, He said, “This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.”...and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep.” The disciples then said to Him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. So Jesus then said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him.” Therefore Thomas...said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, so that we may die with Him.” So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days...Martha then said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”

--Two Kinds of People in “THIS” life and the “NEXT”:

--**Person #1:** They suppose that they can **PURSUE** their own desires in “this life” while **DESERVING** Heaven in the “next life”...and...if they’re **EXCLUDED** from Heaven...they’ll consider it incredibly **UNFAIR**

--**Deadline:** Randy Alcorn:

At 6:06am, Gregory Victor Lowell had exited his temporary “residence.” He’d been unconscious during his last hours, but on leaving his body his mental facilities immediately sharpened. Time had passed—if time still was. The time or day on earth was irrelevant here—wherever “here” was. He was out of his body, so he realized he was dead. In a flash of insight, he knew he had been wrong all those years in thinking that life ended with death. He had said there was no soul, but a soul is exactly what he was, and had been all along. He had not ceased to exist. Indeed, the very idea of a person ceasing to exist was ludicrous. People did not die, they merely relocated from one place to another. Such an exit could never be mistaken for a move from existence to nonexistence except by shortsighted, self-deluded people.

Doc knew instinctively that whatever lay ahead of him would never end. This truth was now self-evident. He felt embarrassed and foolish he had ever thought otherwise. *How could I have been so deceived?* Yet even as he asked the question, he knew he had been willingly deceived because of how he wanted to live and what he wanted to believe.

The more he thought, the angrier Doc became. *How could God do this to me? If God was a God of love, he would offer me a way out!* In his anger, he would not allow himself to admit that God’s love had indeed made a way out, and at immense cost to Himself. He failed to acknowledge that the way out had been explained to him many times, by one of his best friends and others as well. He had rejected the way. He wanted another way, a way that would not force him to confess to wrongdoing. A way that would recognize and reward his goodness, those he had helped, his contribution to humanity. A way that didn’t require him to crawl on his knees like a sniveling beggar. He would find his own way...just like he always had before. Yet even as he said this to himself, verses of the Bible he had tried to ignore flashed back into his mind. *Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life—no one comes to the Father except through Me.” No other way. “Neither is there any other name under heaven whereby we must be saved.” No other way. It was God’s way or none.*

Very well, Doc thought. Then none it will be. He would have to make the best of this world. Anything would be better than the alternative. At least there would be no rules and stupid church services and hypocrite evangelists and pansy angels and interminable do-gooder boredom. That’s right! Heaven. The thought of being there sickened him. To be under those laws, that constant self-righteous oppression, would be intolerable. More intolerable, even, than this place. Yes, the doors of Hell were locked alright, but they were locked from the inside. If God attempted to enter this world, Doc would double bolt the door and put his shoulder against it. This was his place, his world. God had no right to intrude!

Doc had fantasized that if there was a Hell, it would be like a pirate ship where the most shrewd and powerful would rise to the top. *Better to be a captain in Hell than a harp-strumming eunuch in Heaven.* Doc would find the great leaders of Hell, join their fraternity, work his way to the top. Yet even as he thought this, he sensed it was not true. Somehow he knew that he would never see another human again. The God he insisted did not exist, and he did not want or need, had granted him his wish—to have Him once and for all out of his life. He realized now that there was no life without the Sustainer of Life. This was existence, not life. This was eternal death.

For a moment Doc was filled with grief. But it was quickly replaced with anger and outrage, much deeper than before. *How dare God do this to me!* In fact, he would gladly spit in God's face, if only he could do it without looking at Him. To look in the face of God would be Hell itself. He could not imagine even a moment in God's presence. He longed for relief, yet said to himself, *"If the door to heaven was opened, I would run from it. No Hell could be worse than the Hell of having to admit that those narrow-minded believers had been right...and he had been wrong!"*

--Key Concept: Even **HEAVEN** would be **HELL** for someone who demands their own **WAY**

--**Person #2**: This person supposes that they're "**SAVED**"...despite pursuing their own **WILL** in "this life"...but when they die...they believe they'll be instantaneously transformed into someone who **DESIRES** to spend eternity loving **GOD'S** will

--Matt 6:9-10: "Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy **WILL** be done, on earth as it **IS** in **HEAVEN**."

--The staggering concepts that flow from the Lord's Prayer:

--Concept #1: For the person who desires their own will **OVER** the will of God...Heaven is the **LAST** place they'd ever **WANT** to be!!!

--Concept #2: Heaven will only be *heaven* for those who **DESIRE** the will of God **MORE** than they desire **ANYTHING** else!!!

--**What kind of person will WANT to be in Heaven???**

--Psa 1:1-2: How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his *delight* is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates *day and night*.

--What kind of person will WANT to be in Heaven??? The **ONLY** person who will *want* to be in Heaven...will be one who finds their **GREATEST** happiness in **PLEASING** God...**BEFORE** Heaven!!!

--"Well done, my *good and faithful servant*...*enter* into the *joy* of your Lord." (Matt 25:21)

--A simple question that identifies whether I'll LOVE...or HATE...Heaven:

--In *this* life...is my *greatest* joy found in *pleasing* my Master?