The Judgment Seat of Christ

I Corinthians 9:24-26  Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the _________? Run in such a way that you will get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games puts himself under ________ ____________. They do it to get a perishable crown. We do it to get an imperishable crown.

To acquire motivation exceeding that of an Olympic athlete, a Christian must simply __________ ______ ______ about what is at stake.

Would you think the God who spoke the universe into existence could do a good job rewarding someone who has pleased Him?

I. Who will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ?

Whereas unbelievers will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment, Christians will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ. First Corinthians 3:9b-15 indicates that the Judgment Seat of Christ is only for those who have ________ as their foundation.

I Cor. 3:9b-15  You are God's ________, God's building. According to the commission of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay or stubble, his work will be shown for what it is, for the Day will disclose it. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a ____________. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be ____________, but only as through fire.

The Judgment Seat does not determine whether someone will go to heaven or hell. Everyone at the Judgment Seat will go to heaven. Because Jesus bore our punishment already, the Judgment Seat is not a place of punishment. God will be looking for things to reward.

How does our sin enter the picture? Sin destroys the very things God rewards.
“(the Judgment Seat) does not mean a recounting of sin. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. Sin will enter the issue only to the degree that it has kept us from being the profitable field, the worthy building, the image of Jesus Christ that the Holy Spirit tried to help us be.” (Rick Howard, Christian Maturity, p. 91)

2 Corinthians 5:9-10  So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to __________ Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive according to the deeds done in the body, whether good or evil.

God will not reward us for good deeds done after we get to heaven. God's rewards are only for the deeds done "_____ _____ ________".

II. When will this judgment take place?

When Christ _______________.

Matt. 16:27  For the Son of man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay every man for what he has done.

1 John 2:28  And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have _______________ and not shrink back from him in ___________ at his coming.

I Cor 4:3-5  But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court....It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then every man will receive his commendation from God.

The Lord will bestow rewards only after disclosing our deeds and ______ we did them.

III. What will be rewarded?

A) Fruitfulness

James 5:7  Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious __________ of the earth,...

Jeremiah 17:10  "I, the Lord, search the mind and try the heart, to give to every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings."
He who abides in Christ bears much fruit. (John 15:5)

**B) Faithfulness**

Faithfulness to God in this life affords us the privilege of being useful to Him throughout eternity.

**Matt. 25:21** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.'"

**C) Love and Servanthood**

"If I give away all I have, and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing" (1 Cor. 13:3).

"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more...so that you...may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruits of righteousness which come through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God" (Philippians 1:9-11).

To be great in God's kingdom, one must become a _____________
(Matthew 20:26-28).

The great ones in God's kingdom will be those who count others as more important than themselves and who focus on the interests of others.

**D) Working Heartily As Unto The Lord**

Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not with eyeservice, as menpleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you are serving the Lord Christ (Col. 3:22-24).

Slaves, be obedient to those who are your earthly masters, with _______ and _____________, in singleness of heart, as to Christ... (Eph. 6:5)

If you simply saw the truth about the awesome opportunity that faces you each day in your work, it would cause you to tremble.
IV. What are the rewards?

A) God’s pleasure

Various crowns indicative of God’s pleasure will be awarded:

- The Crown of Rejoicing for soulwinning (1 Thess. 2:19-20)
- The Crown of Righteousness for loving His appearing (2 Tim. 4:7-8)
- The Crown of Life for faithfulness in trial (James 1:12)
- The Crown of Glory for shepherding (1 Peter 5:2-4)

B) The privilege of being useful to God throughout eternity

He who is faithful in little will be made master over much. How we serve God forever will be determined by how we live this life!

C) God’s glory and joy

Daniel 12:9 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

D) Intimacy with God

Rev. 3:12 Matthew 20:20-28 Ezekiel. 44:9-16

V. Is it selfish to seek eternal reward?

Jesus would never command us to be selfish, and yet He commands us to lay up for ourselves “treasures in heaven” (Matthew 6:20). God’s rewards are simply tangible expressions of His approval. His fire will reveal what is of value and what is worthless. It is not selfish to want your life to be useful and pleasing to God. Those who are useful to Him here will be given greater opportunities to be useful to Him for eternity. They have been “faithful in little” so God promises to make them “master over much.”

God wants to use us to bless many lives. Those who will be rich in heaven are those who are “rich in good deeds” on the earth. They don’t live to impress people; they live to bless people and to delight the heart of God.
I Timothy 6:17-19  As for the rich in this world, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on uncertain riches but on God who richly furnishes us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good deeds, liberal and generous, thus laying up for themselves a good foundation for the coming age, that they may take hold of the life which is _______ _________.

In Rev. 4:9-10 the elders cast their crowns at Jesus’ feet. They are acknowledging, “Lord, I’m just trying to give credit where credit is due. All the works I did in my own righteousness and strength got burned up. The rewards I received were for those things that You did through me, so these rewards should really go to You!”

This is not a one-time event. They don’t lose the crowns they cast at Jesus’ feet, because eternal rewards are eternal. This passage says they cast their crowns, not once, but whenever the four living creatures give glory to the One seated on the throne.

Just as no branch can bear fruit apart from the vine, we cannot bear good fruit apart from Him. Therefore, these rewards bring continual honor to Jesus Christ.

**No Place for Comparison with Others**

You cannot get a correct evaluation of yourself by comparing yourself to others. God will not judge you by comparing you with others; He will judge you in relation to what He has given you. "To whom much is given, much will be ______________." (Luke 12:48b)

John 21:22-23  Peter therefore seeing him [John] said to Jesus, “Lord, and what about this man?” Jesus said to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? ______ follow Me!”

**Conclusion**

How I will serve God for eternity is being determined by my choices here! Although all born-again Christians will be in heaven because of our faith in Christ, some of us will receive great reward, and some will receive no reward at all.1 Some of us will "enter into the joy of our Master," and some will not.2 Some of us will "take hold of the life which is life indeed," and some will not.3 Some of us will wear crowns indicative of the Father’s pleasure, and some will not.4 This is very serious indeed!

1 Cor. 3:12-15  2Mat. 25:21,23,30  3First Tim. 6:18-19  41 Cor. 9:24,25; 10:4,5
Blanks filled in for notes on The Judgment Seat of Christ

P. 1
prize
strict training
believe the truth
Christ
field
reward
saved

P. 2
please
in the body
returns
confidence
shame
why
fruit

P. 3
servant
fear
trembling

P. 4
No blanks

P. 5
life indeed
required
You