10th Sept. 2023 Sungai Ara Gospel Hall

**The Coming Judgments –**

**Pt. 1: The Judgment Seat of Christ**

**Pt. 2: The Judgment at The Great White Throne**

Intro.: Is there only one Final Universal General Judgment for all on the last day?

 One General Resurrection and one General Judgment?

Cf. Jn. 11:24 – ***M****artha saith unto Him, I know that he* [Lazarus] *shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.*

Jn. 5:28, 29 – ***M****arvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall*

*hear His voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. (condemnation,* NKJV)

Cf. Dan. 12:1, 2 *– At that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the*

*children of thy people:* ***and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book****. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

Consider **Three** **S**eparate judgments before **Three** different ‘Thrones’ in **Three** different Spheres in

 the Future as mentioned in the Bible, viz.

**(1) The Saints at the Judgment Seat of Christ in Heaven.**

 **I Thes. 4:16-17 –** *For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of*

*the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

**II Cor. 5:6-10** –*. For we must all appear before* **the judgment seat of Christ***; that every one may*

 *receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad*

 (1) The **S**aints at the Judgment Seat of Christ in heaven/ the Air. II Cor. 5:6-10
(2) The **S**heep and Goats at the Throne of Glory on Earth. Mt. 25:31-46

**Matt. 25:31-46 –** *31 When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon* ***the throne*** *of His glory:…And before Him shall be gathered* ***all nations****: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his* ***sheep*** *from the* ***goats****:*

*And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.*

 *34 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

**(2) The Sheep and Goats at the Throne of Glory on Earth. Mt. 25:31-46 (3)**

 **The** **S**inners at the Great White Throne in Space. **Rev. 20:11-15, NKJV**

*Then I saw* ***a great white throne*** *and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.*

 *Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire.* ***This is the second death.***

 *d anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*

**Three** passages of Scripture stand out very clearly: **Rom. 14:10**; II Cor. 5:10; I Cor. 3:10-15

**A**. **THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF Christ. Rom. 14:10**

1. The **M**ention: we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ/God. KJV cf. NRSV, NIV

 Cf. *we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.* II Cor. 5:10, all versions.

 Cf. *The Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son*. Jn. 5:22

**2.** The **M**eaning of the judgment seat:

 a. Gk. *Bema* = a step, i.e. foot-breath; by impl. a rostrum, i.e. tribunal:

 {As Acts 12:21; 18:12; 25:6

 -- judgment-seat, set [foot] on, throne. (Strong)

 – as used in a **R**unning **R**ace to judge the winner.

 b. Gk. *Criterion* = a rule of judging ("criterion")…to judge, judgment (seat). Jas. 2:6

 – as used when making a **R**uling in a court of law.

**3.** The **M**otives –

1. This is a judgment of Motives, things done unto the Lord. **Rom. 14:6-8** –

 *For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord.*

 b. And a judgment of Works: cf. I Cor. 3:13

 *Every man's work shall be made manifest…because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.*

**4**. The **M**oment in time – in the Future, after the Rapture?

a. When *we* ***shall*** *all stand before the judgment seat of Christ* – still future. Rom. 14:10

b. When He might be Lord both of the dead and living – after the Rapture? Rom. 14:9

c. Cf. *Therefore* *judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come*, I Cor. 4:5

 *Who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*

**5**. The **M**anner – Judge not others’ motives; leave all judgment unto the Lord. …

*for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ*. **Rom. 14**:**10**; Mt. 7:1-5

a. Do not **M**isjudge the practice of others with respect to **M**otives. 14:3, 4

b. Each one is **A**ccountable for his/her own **A**ction. 14:5, 6, 12

c. Do not **P**ut a stumbling block in the **P**ath of another. 14:13, 21

d. **L**et each be fully persuaded of the **L**ord. 14:3, 14, 20

e. Let us then **P**ursue what makes for **P**eace and for mutual upbuilding. 14:19, NRSV

f. Consider the weaker brother and **A**bstain if an **A**ction can offend. 14:21

g. **F**ollow Christ Who pleased not Himself, bearing reproaches that **F**ell on Him. 15:1-3, ff

h. Cf. ***J****udge not, that ye be not* ***J****udged*. Mt. 7:1

**B. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.** II Cor. 5:10

**1.** The **A**ppearance – ***we*** *must* ***all*** *appear before the judgment seat of Christ*;

a. **A**ll must **A**ppear, i.e. all “*we*” in Christ, i.e. the believers. *we* – 26 occ. in chap.

i. Those absent from the Lord and those present with the Lord.

 *Present in the body Absent from the body* - II Cor. 5:6, 8

ii. Those saints in the **C**hurch of God which is at **C**orinth. II Cor. 1:1

b. **A**ll must **A**ccount – All (*every one of us*) shall give account of himself to God. Rom. 14:12

i. Some will **R**eceive a **R**eward (Gain), others will suffer Loss. I Cor. 3:14, 15

ii. Note Paul was **R**eady to count all Gain as Loss for Christ. Phil. 3:7

**2**. The **A**ssessment – *every one may receive the things done in his body…whether it be good or bad* II Cor. 5:10

a. Is it *good*? i.e. from word meaning beautiful, but chiefly (fig.) good (lit.),

 i.e. valuable or virtuous. Strong

b. Is it *bad*? from a primary word meaning worthless i.e. good for nothing. Strong

**C. The Judgment SEAT OF CHRIST (III) I Cor. 3:11-15**

**1.** The **P**eople – It is a Judgment of Believers. I Cor. 3:11

a. It involves one who builds on the foundation which is Jesus Christ. I Cor. 3:11

b. It involves one who lives or dies unto the Lord because he is the Lord’s. Rom. 14:8

c. It involves one who is either absent from the Lord or present with the Lord. II Cor. 5:6, 8

**2.** The **P**urpose:

a. To test every man's work of what sort it is. I Cor. 3:13

 It is a test of Works and the Motive that inspires them. Cf. Rom. 14

i. The work can be gold, silver, precious stones, i.e. of **Q**uality (Valuable) I Cor. 3:12a

ii. Or it can be wood, hay, stubble, i.e. of **Q**uantity but Worthless. I Cor. 3:12b

b. The **F**igure of the **F**ire in the testing,

i. In this Judgment, the fire will burn up the **S**tubble, I Cor. 3:15

 and the **S**aint will suffer loss but he shall be **S**aved.

ii. In the Judgment in the *Day of the Lord*, the fire will burn the **S**inners as **S**tubble and will leave them neither physical root nor branch: Mal. 4:1,5

 or "*Not a root or a branch will be left to them*.” NIV

**3**. The **P**roduct.

a. Either he will **S**uffer loss, though he will be **S**aved so as by fire. I Cor. 3:15

b. Or he will **R**eceive a **R**eward.

 **C**p. The possible **C**rowns he will receive: - I Cor. 3:14

i. **The Crown of Life** or the Martyr’s Crown. Rev. 2:10; Jas. 1:12;

 *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee* ***a crown of life****.*

 *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive* ***the crown of life****, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

ii. **The Crown of Glory** or the Elder’s Crown. I Pet.5:2-4

 *When the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive*

 *a* ***crown of glory*** *that fadeth not away.*

iii. **The Crown of Rejoicing** or the Soul-winner’s Crown. I Thes. 2:19, 20; Phil. 4:1 *For what is our hope, or joy, or* ***crown of rejoicing****? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For ye are our glory and joy.*

 *My brethren, dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord.*

iv. **The Crown of Righteousness** or for those who love His appearing. II Tim. 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 them also that love His appearing.*

v. **The Incorruptible Crown** or the Victor’s Crown. I Cor. 9:25-27 *Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.*

 *Now they do it to obtain a corruptible* ***crown****; but we an* ***incorruptible****.*

 *I therefore so run…so fight I [and] I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection*.

 *The Judgment Seat of Christ* – The Works and the **R**ewards

a. He will **S**uffer loss, though he will be **S**aved so as by fire. I Cor. 3:15

b. Or he will **R**eceive a **R**eward.

 He will be **R**ewarded for Good Works.

 What are the possible good works for which he will be rewarded?

i. The good works of **W**itnessing: Mt. 5:16; I Pet. 2:12

 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father…in heaven.*

ii. The good works of **W**alking in His **W**orkmanship: Eph. 2:19

 *We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

iii. The good works of **W**orshipping God: I Tim. 2:10, NIV

 *With good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.*

 iv. **Other Good Works of**…

**Charity**: *This woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.* Acts 9:36

**Generosity**: *be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share.* I Tim. 6:18

**Maturity** as *the man of God… thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

II Tim. 3:17, NIV; Tit. 3:8, 14

**Consistency**: *In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works* Tit. 2:7 cf. 2:14 **Loving the assembly**: Heb. 10:24, 25

*Consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:not forsaking the assembling of ourselves*

**Conclusion:**

*Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.* I Cor. 4:2

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.* I Cor. 15:58

*Let no man beguile you of your reward.* Col. 2:18

 *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.* Rev. 3:11

**Next Week: Pt. II** – The Judgment at the Great White Throne.

 (The Judgment of the Sheep and Goats)