



CLASS FIVE: ETERNAL JUDGEMENT

Introduction:

"The Scriptures teach that man is on probation during his time on earth. Those who respond to God's grace and obey Him will be eternally rewarded in heaven, God's dwelling place. Those who willfully resist the grace of God, do their own will and serve Satan will be eternally punished in hell, Satan dwelling place. Eternal destinies are settled here in times". – [Kevin J. Conner]

There is a sure appointment for everyone who lives on the surface of this earth. The appointment is very sure. Eternal judgment is that part of the doctrine of Christ that indicates that a time has been set aside by God for men to be judged; those who have upheld righteousness have eternal glory whilst sinners and the wicked ones will have eternal damnation in the lake of fire.

There is going to be a period of seven years according to the seven weeks prophecy by Daniel in which the servants who took part in the rapture will be with Christ. Eternal judgment is the judgment that awaits every human soul in eternity after time and history are closed. Before judgment is the resurrection of the dead. The saints who had the chance in the first resurrection already have been judged.

The Two Main Judgements

1. Bema Seat Judgement

"For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. 10 You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. 11 It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'" 12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God" [**Romans 14:9–12**].

This judgment is for believers. This judgment occurs during the seven-year tribulation on earth.

The saints and the righteous will have been "caught up" to meet the Lord, and the dead in Christ will have been raised.

In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' [**1 Corinthians 15:52–54**]

"For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever" [**1 Thessalonians 4:16–17**].



"For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father's glory with His angels, and then He will reward each person according to what he has done" [**Matthew 16:27**].

Although a believer is saved solely by Grace, his works after he is saved determine the rewards he receives.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast" [**Ephesians 2:8–9**].

The works of the true believers will be judged based on obedience. The parables of the talents in **Matthew 25** and the parable of the pounds in **Luke 19** were told by Jesus to illustrate this truth. In both these parables, servants were judged based on what they had done with what they had been given. They were told to invest things for their master. Disobedient servants were judged unfaithful.

Believers will not be judged based on abilities, education, or spiritual gifts. They would be judged based on obedience and faithfulness to what God has given them to do. The judgment of true believers is not of condemnation.

Various Rewards Christ Talked About:

1. The reward of faithfulness [Matthew 25:21-23**]**

To be faithful to the end with what is entrusted into our hands. We must yearn to become good stewards of our own lives and all that the Lord entrusts into our hands.

2. The rewards of the prophet and the righteous man [Matthew 10:41-42**]**

The Bible also speaks of various crowns that people will be given by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word crown comes from *stepho*, meaning "to encircle" and alludes to a victor's crown. There are five different crowns that believers are promised in the Bible.

a. Incorruptible Crown

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 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" [**1 Corinthians 9:24-25**]

An incorruptible crown indicates a crown that will endure throughout eternity. This crown indicates a reward that a believer will receive that will always be remembered through ages without end. The wearer was faithful in his or her earthly love to follow the Lord and be obedient to Him.

b. The Crown of Rejoicing / Soul Winners Crown

"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? 20 Indeed, you are our glory and joy" [**1 Thessalonians 2:19–20**].



This crown is often called the soul winners crown, as there will be a special reward for all soul winners. We would be rewarded for the souls we have won to Christ, and a special winners crown will be given to each believer who was a soul winner.

c. The Crown of Life / The Shepherds' crown

"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" [**James 1:12**].

This crown is for believers who endure and overcome temptation and trials. There is a special crown for those who have disciplined their bodies, minds, and spirits to follow the Lord until the end. It's a crown of life.

d. Crown of Glory

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

This particular crown is for those who have served as elders, pastors, and spiritual bishops over the believers as a shepherd would care for His sheep.

e. Crown of Righteousness

"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" [**2 Timothy 4:8**].

This crown is for those who love the appearing of Christ. These are believers who daily long for the return of Jesus. A special crown is given to them.

Motive of Our Works [Love]

[**1 Corinthians 13:1-3**]. We must take note that, the works we do for the Lord must be done out of Love. All we do must come out of the overflow of the love we have for Jesus [**Romans 5:5 / 2 Corinthians 5:14**].

Our service in the kingdom should not be done to please any man but to please our Lord and Saviour Jesus. If we do anything with the goal of pleasing man, we would end up not pleasing God [**Galatians 1:10**]. We would only have an eternal reward if what we do is done out of love for Jesus.

Are you cleaning your church meeting grounds? Do not just do it out of responsibility but out of love for Jesus.

Are you called to sing at church? Do not do it for the applause of men but out of love for Jesus.

Great White Throne Judgment

This judgment is for those who endured the tribulation, unbelievers and those who died during the millennial reign of Christ on earth.



"Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire" [**Revelation 20:11–15**].

This judgment is to show men and women why they are condemned to the second death. True believers would have been charged already and so they would not appear at this judgment. This is the ultimate judgment that will put an end to sin and rebellion against the authority and holiness of God.