



LEVEL 4

FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINES



CLASS 1

REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS



REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

This is the first fundamental doctrine. Repentance is a complete change of mind for the better. It involves having a godly sorrow over sins committed and the eagerness to obtain God's pardon. Repentance means to stop what you are currently doing (the wrong) and turn to the opposite direction (the good). Repentance means to change one's mind or one's way of thinking.



DEAD WORKS

Any religious act calculated to gain merit with God by human efforts is dead works. Worship can be dead work. Prayer can be dead work. Hymn singing can be dead work. Tithing can be dead work. Deeds of kindness can be dead work. Fasting can be dead work. It is possible to turn any act of worship, devotion or service into a dead work. Any act which is not initiated by God is dead work. Dead works are acts of a man living in sin or acts of the person who has not surrendered his life to Christ yet.



CATEGORIES OF DEAD WORKS

There are two main categories of dead works:

1. The Life and Works of an Unbeliever
2. The Life and Works of a Believer Done Without Faith



1. THE LIFE AND WORKS OF AN UNBELIEVER

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the Spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. 4 But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved” [Ephesians 2:1–5].



Sin is simply disobedience to the command of God. Because of the inherited nature from Adam, every man born into the world was an automatic enemy of God because he was born in sin and his acts were sinful and considered dead before the Lord. Even this man's good acts are filthy rags before the Lord. The fate of man was hellfire unless he finds a way of escape. This way of escape is first of all repentance through Christ.

Our works cannot save us, or make us worthy of God. Man cannot be saved by his good deeds, but salvation comes through Jesus and His precious blood that was shed for us. **“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].** Repentance from dead works means we stop trying to be saved by looking for favour from God through our works, but we realize that these things are obtained by faith. We must understand that we are made right with God only through faith and this is solely God's doing.



2. THE LIFE AND WORKS OF A BELIEVER DONE WITHOUT FAITH

“But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin” [Romans 14:23]. We must be careful as believers not to do any works thinking those works would save us or give us right standing with God. We are saved solely by our faith. We must not begin to trust in our works after we are saved, thinking that those things can now save us. We must do all things having faith in God and not in ourselves or the things we do. A Christian must continually repent from dead works.





CLASS 2

FAITH TOWARDS GOD



FAITH TOWARDS GOD

When a man repents from sin, it doesn't automatically save him. All he has done is to change his mind or his mental disposition toward sin. Without faith towards God, that man's actions will still be considered dead. So repentance from dead works and faith towards God go together. It can be said that "faith gives life to the works of a repented man"



WHAT IS FAITH?

Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead [Hebrews 11:19].

Now faith means that we are confident of what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see. Faith is God simply laying hold of the unseen hope and bringing it into the realm of reality. Faith is not available outside the word of God. Salvation is not possible without faith and as such, it is important to know that faith is a gift of God and the operation of God. After repentance from dead works, it is important we base our faith in God through His Word.

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved” [Acts 4:12].



- There is no name under the heavens by which men can be saved. This faith is not the giving of mental assent to the truth in the word; it believes from the heart. This faith toward God is expressed by our confession and belief from the heart.
- Believing in the finished work of Christ: For an unbeliever, he/she must turn around from his works. He/she needs to turn around with the intention of gaining a right standing with God. Believing that Jesus Christ died and was resurrected as a substitute for him/her is crucial as far as faith toward God is concerned.



“That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved” [Romans 10:9–10].

The life of faith finds its power and essence from the finished works of Christ. An unbeliever must therefore turn around from the dead works and begin to put his faith in God.



FAITH TO LIVE BY:

For a believer, you must begin to live each day by faith alone. It is faith that pleases God. You must always check to see if what you do daily is out of faith or out of a motive of trying to have the right merit with God through your works. Believers must not just do things because others are doing them. They must always act out of faith. [Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3]

OUR SERVICE TO GOD MUST BE DONE OUT OF FAITH:

Then they asked Him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" 29 Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.' [John 6:28–29]. We are working the works of God so far as we keep believing in Jesus Christ because faith towards God is a faith that works. True faith is believing in Jesus Christ.



“True faith is simply the recognition of the one in whom we believe. True faith is knowing Jesus: it is the ability to see Him in the power of His resurrection, as Abraham was able to do even before He came. Faith is not just believing in the words of the Lord but believing the word Himself”

[Rick Joyner].

True faith is the ability to see eternity; this delivers us from the grip of the curse and worries of this world that is passing away. Faith towards God is not a one-day affair. It is for life. You must walk in faith every day as a believer. You don't outgrow faith. You must grow in and with faith. Faith is a lifestyle without which the life of the believer is a dead life and his works are dead works.



WE LIVE BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT

Seeing is not believing. This idea as propounded by the world is not consistent with scripture. It takes faith for us to see the manifestation of the invisible.



"Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." 26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." [John 20:24–29]

This is true faith; what we believe we shall see. Faith is the substance of hope and no man yet hopes for what he has seen.





CLASS 3

LAYING ON OF HANDS



THE DOCTRINE OF LAYING ON OF HANDS

This is a common practice we see in the church today. One of the foundational doctrines of Christ. It is a very important spiritual activity and must not be taken for granted. Let us consider some instances of laying on of hands in both the Old and New Testament



OLD TESTAMENT:

- For a blessing [Genesis 48: 8–20]

Israel (Jacob) blessed the sons of Joseph by laying his hands on them. He placed his hands on Ephraim and Manasseh and spoke a blessing over them. These blessings affected generations even yet unborn.

- Transferring authority/ leadership [Numbers 27:18-21, Deuteronomy 34:9]

Getting to the end of Moses's ministry, he needed a successor. God instructed him to lay his hand on Joshua. This act transferred authority/ leadership from Moses to Joshua. In Deuteronomy 34:9 we see the product of this exercise. Joshua is said to be full of the Spirit of wisdom. The children of Israel also listened to him because he had authority.



NEW TESTAMENT:

- Healing [Matthew 8:1–4, Matthew 20:30–34]

Jesus healed Peter's mother in law by laying His hands upon her. Jesus healed the two blind men by laying hands on them. If Jesus healed people by laying hands on them, we cannot trivialize this act. It is important, as His followers, to also heal people by laying hands on them. Ananias laid hands on Paul for him to receive sight [Acts 9:10-18].

Paul healed the father of Publius by laying hands on him [Acts 28:8–9]. We are encouraged to call for the elders of the church to lay hands on us and anoint us when we are sick [James 5:14–15]

Other scripture references on healings that took place by laying on of hands [Mark 1:41, Mark 6:5, Mark 7:32–33, Luke 4:40]



- Casting demons [Luke 4:40-41] Jesus laid His hands on many people and devils came out of them. Devils can be cast out of people by laying on of hands.
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit [Acts 8:14–20] Peter and John laid hands on the disciples at Samaria and they received the Holy Ghost. In Acts 9:17, Ananias laid hands on Saul and he received the Holy Ghost. We can also lay hands on believers for them to receive the Holy Spirit.
- Impartation of the gifts of the Spirit [1 Timothy 4:14, 2 Timothy 1:6] Timothy had received a gift of the Spirit by the laying on of hands. We can also receive and impart spiritual gifts by the laying on of hands.



- Separation for Service [Ministry]

The sons of Israel laid hands on the Levites to “separate” them for service [Numbers 8:10– 11]. Hands were laid on Joshua by Moses to “separate” him for duty. He was separated unto the work of leadership [Numbers 27:18–23].

Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas were selected by the church. Hands were laid upon them and separated for the duty of serving tables [Acts 6:1– 6].

During one prayer time, the Holy Spirit spoke to the disciples to select Barnabas and Saul for a particular service [Acts 13:1–3]. They were to be “separated” for a particular assignment (ministry). Hands were laid on them and they were sent.



- Spiritual blessing [Mark 10:13–16]

Children were brought to Jesus for Him to lay His hands on them. Bless: invoke a benediction. Cause to prosper.



WHO CAN LAY HANDS ON OTHERS?

One is encouraged to call the elders (senior, presbyter) of the church when he is sick so they lay hands on him [James 5:14–15]. The less is always blessed of the greater. Ideally, those with a higher spiritual mandate or authority should lay hands on individuals [Hebrews 7:7].

This symbolizes that the transfer of gifts and wisdom is from the one with the higher authority. It should be noted however that, it is never the doing of man when it comes to the laying on of hands. It is ALWAYS the work of the Holy Spirit through a man. It is never an issue of the power of a man but the power of the Spirit in a man.





CLASS 4

RESURRECTION



RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

Man was created to live forever. Death came upon man as a result of disobedience to the command of God in the garden.

If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait for my renewal to come. [Job 14:14].

The above question is a question many continue to ask even today. What happens when we die? Is there another life after death? Are we going to live as ghosts? Are we going to have bodies in the next life? The life of Jesus and his resurrection answers these questions. Christ lived on the earth, He died and was resurrected. No other religion attests to the resurrection. Mohammed died and is still dead. Buddha died and is still in the grave. Jesus died and was raised again.



CENTRAL THEME OF CHRISTIANITY

The central theme for the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead lies in the fact that Jesus died, was buried and was raised again.



“But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that He raised Christ from the dead. But He did not raise Him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men”

[1 Corinthians 15:12–19].



If Christ did not rise, then;

- a. The preaching or message of the apostles is in vain. Their message is not true.
- b. Our faith is useless.
- c. We are still guilty of our sins. We will remain unforgiven. We are bound to hell. A believer has no hope if Christ did not rise.
- d. Those who have died believing in Christ are eternally lost. Then there will be no hope for all our family and friends who believed in Christ before they died.
- e. Christians are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.



THE GOSPEL IS BASED ON THE RESURRECTION

The gospel is not complete if Christ did not resurrect. The gospel is not that Christ died, but that he rose triumphant, defeating death, hell and the grave! There is no Christianity if Christ did not rise.

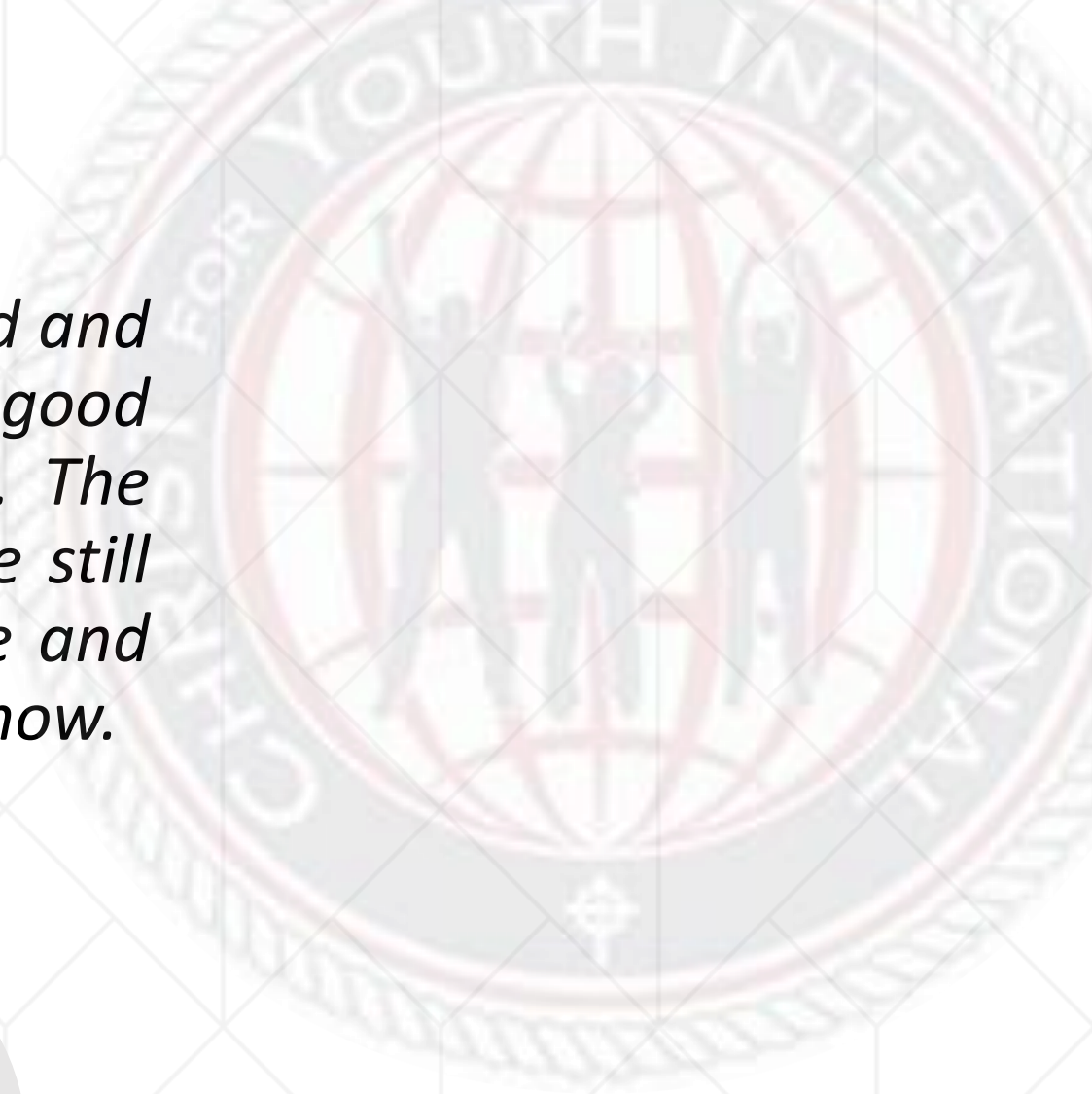


“Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance a: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,”

[1 Corinthians 15:1–4].



The gospel is that Christ died, He was buried and was raised again. The gospel won't be good news if it ended with the death of Jesus. The founders of all other religions died and are still dead. Christ predicted He was going to die and be raised and He did. He continuous to live now.



WHAT DOES THE RESURRECTION MEAN TO THE BELIEVER?

Because Christ was raised, we have the same hope that we would be raised when we die. We will not just remain in the ground as beasts of the earth remain in the ground after they die. Because he was raised, we would also be raised. Death to a believer is a period of his sleep, a necessary phase to allow him/her to be with the One who loves him/her unconditionally and gave up His life (Jesus).



WHAT HAPPENS AT RESURRECTION?

The empty tomb of Jesus is the ultimate proof that Christ's resurrected body was the same body that died on the cross. If resurrection meant the creation of a new body, Christ's original body would have remained in the tomb.

“Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”
[Luke 24:39].

Jesus walked in His resurrected body on the earth for 40 days.



“In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen. 3 After His suffering, He showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God” [Acts 1:1–3].

He was recognized by his disciples and all who knew Him. We would have similar bodies when we resurrect, just that our bodies would be raised to greater perfection.



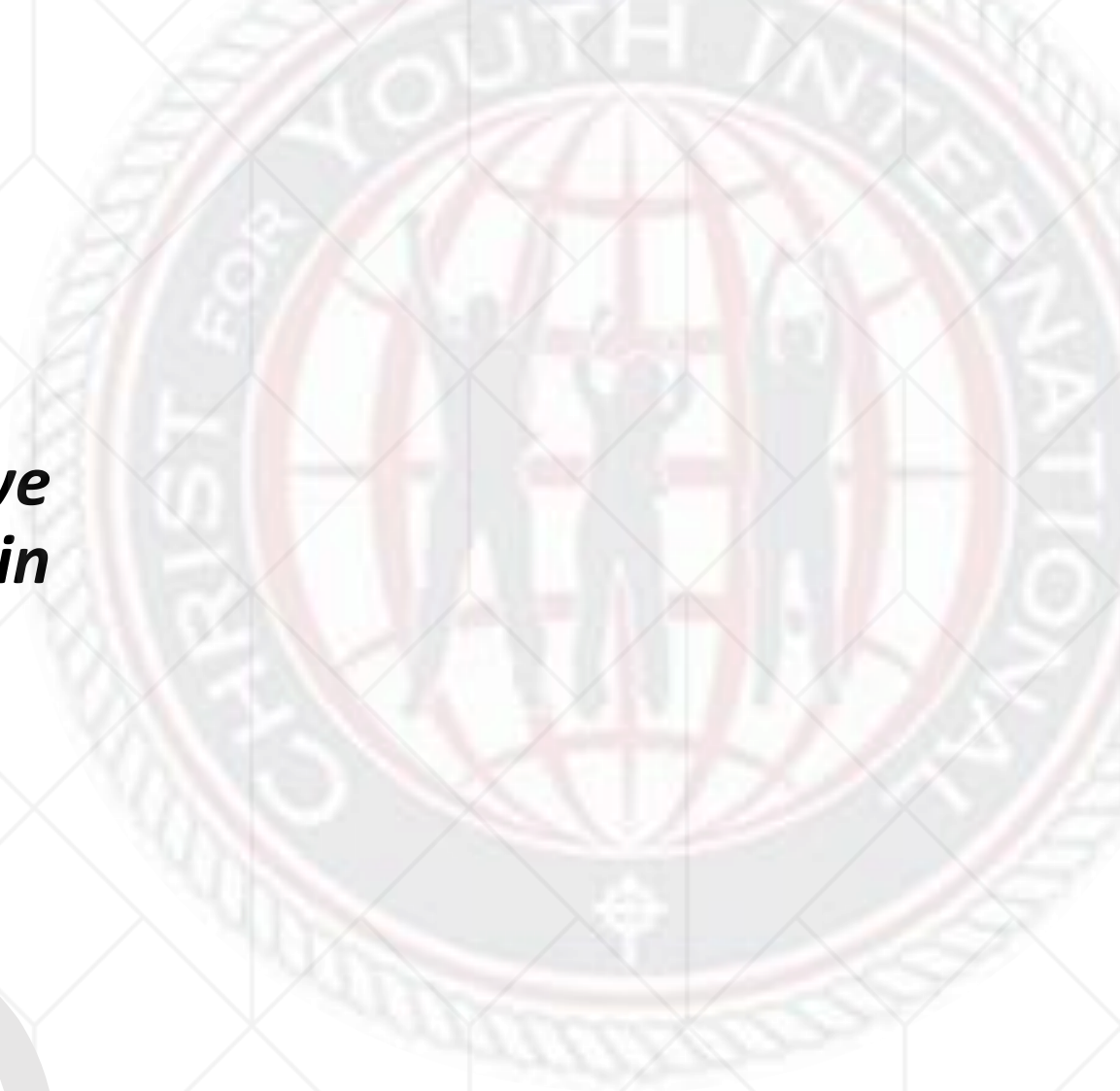
“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears,” [1 John 3:2].

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body” [Philippians 3:20–21].

“And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we f bear the likeness of the man from heaven” [1 Corinthians 15:49].



***We will not walk as ghosts when we
resurrect. We will not be floating people in
the new heavens and the new earth.***





CLASS 5

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 determines 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 — 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.



THE TWO MAIN JUDGEMENTS

cont...

2. 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.

End.





THANK YOU

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