

The Crown of Life - This is the Sufferer's Crown.

The Crown of Glory - This is the Shepherd's Crown.

Once Saved Always Saved (But Tragic Loss of Reward)

[1 John 2:28](#) declares "And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming". Notice carefully that when Christ returns, all believers are summoned into His presence - the confident and the ashamed. The confident appear before the tribunal with "good works" whereas the ashamed have naught but "bad works" (see [2 Corinthians 5:10](#)).

This is exceedingly important to understand because multitudes today think that one sin can keep a child of God out of heaven. The text plainly states that the "ashamed" meet Christ at His appearing. At the sound of the trumpet, when the dead in Christ rise first and living believers join the dead to meet Christ in the clouds (see [1 Thessalonians 4:16](#)), the "ashamed" also enter heaven, but the abundant entrance is reserved for those who earned it upon earth (see [2 Peter 1:11](#)).

One who obeys God will not be sorry. The faithful will be rewarded a hundred fold at the Bema Seat. Scholars calculate that to be a 10,000 percent yield. No wonder Paul said in [2 Corinthians 9:6](#) "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap

generously". One cannot out give God at 10,000 percent interest. [Galatians 6:7](#), often quoted to the unsaved, but directed to Christians concerning giving, states "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows". If the judgment took place within the next 24 hours, would you lose some or all of your rewards? Millions are going home ashamed, embarrassed, and red-faced. The result will be intermittent weeping for 1,007 years. This is proven by studying the chronological outline of the Book of Revelation. Let's look at it.

The seven years of Tribulation follow in chapters 6-18. Christ returns to earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords ([Revelation 19:11-16](#)). He rules the earth for 1,000 years ([Revelation 20:4-6](#)), and judges the world after the thousand years ([Revelation 20:11-15](#)). Then, finally and forever, God wipes all tears away from their eyes ([Revelation 21:4](#)).

Chronologically, this is after the Tribulation, after the Millennium. In other words, from the rapture call in [Revelation 4:1](#) onward, there is intermittent and spasmodic crying/remorse for the next 1,007 years. Is your foolish episode with the world that important to you? Will it be worth it all when you see Jesus? Do not lose out on rewards eternally for a short fling presently!

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The Bema Seat of Christ

Believers Judgment by Christ

Perhaps one of the most misunderstood concepts by Christians is the Judgment Seat of Christ. The mere mention of this event strikes fear and dread in most Christians: An event thought of as something unpleasant that must happen before the joys of Heaven and being with our Lord and loved ones can be experienced. A proper Biblical understanding of this event will not only remove fear of this event, but will also motivate Christians to serve our Lord in the limited time we have left. Having a proper Biblical understanding of the Judgment Seat of Christ will answer your questions about:

1. When Will It Happen?
2. Are We Judged For Sin We Have Committed?
3. What Criteria Will We Be Judged On?
4. What Are The Rewards/Crowns?

5. What About Those Who Have Accepted Christ But Have Turned From Him: "Once Saved, Always Saved"?"

When Will It Happen

The Judgment of believers will occur immediately following the rapture. The timing of the Judgment Seat of Christ is given in the following scriptures:

In [Revelation 19:8](#), when the Lord returns with His bride at the end of the tribulation, she is seen already rewarded. Her reward is described as fine linen, the righteous acts of the saints undoubtedly the result of rewards.

[2 Timothy 4:8](#)

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.

[1 Corinthians 4:5](#)

Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

We Are Not Judged For Sin

It is important to emphasize that the Judgment Seat of Christ *does not* determine salvation; that was determined by Christ's sacrifice on behalf of the blood bought believer ([1 John 2:2](#)), and the believer's faith in Him ([John 3:16](#)). All confessed sins are forgiven and believers will never be condemned for them

([Romans 8:1](#)). To say otherwise would deny the completeness of the death of Jesus Christ, and nullify God's promise that "their sins and iniquities will I remember no more" ([Hebrews 10:17](#)).

Instead, the purpose of this bema judgment by Jesus Christ is to reward or not to reward believers based on how faithfully they served Him ([1 Corinthians 9:4-27](#), [2 Timothy 2:5](#)).

Your sins are forgiven and even God Himself says, "Your sins and iniquities I will remember no more." They are removed as far as what? As far as the East is from the West. How far is that? That's far! The East is from the West; they are buried in the depths of the sea; they are forgotten by God, because of the Blood of Jesus Christ.

So I believe that our reward in the future is going to be a reward related to what we have done and that the waste will be burned away. The useless things burned away, and what is left, will be the gold, silver, and precious stones. The other things are not bad, remember [1 Corinthians 3](#), "Wood, hay, and stubble?" Wood isn't bad, you build things out of it. Hay isn't bad, horses eat it. Even stubble is used to make bricks. But it just doesn't have any spiritual value, and when fire gets to it, it burns it up.

What We Will Be Judged On

Although the judgment seat of Christ is focused on rewards rather than punishment,

we *will* regret having spent time on foolish priorities and worthless deeds. Our hearts will break when we realize we've squandered our lives after all our Saviour did for us. We will lament that we have so little to offer Him in return for His supreme sacrifice at the cross and faithfulness to us throughout our lives.

Dr. H.L. Wilmington has done a good job of gleaning the truth about the things upon which Christians will be examined at the Judgment Seat of Christ. They are as follows: *How we treat other believers, how we employ our God-given abilities, how we use our money, how we spend our time, how many souls we witness to and win to Christ, how effectively we control the old nature and how we react to temptation.*

Rewards, The Crowns

The Judgment Seat of Christ will be a crowning day for those Christians who will receive rewards for their works. ([1 Corinthians 9:4-27](#); [2 Timothy 2:5](#)). Unlike the laurel and ivy crowns received from officials at the Bema seat of the Olympics in Corinth, the child of God will receive eternal crowns from the Lord Jesus Himself. There are five such crowns to be rewarded:

The Incorruptible Crown - This is the Runner's crown.

The Crown of Rejoicing - This is the soul-winner's crown.

The Crown of Righteousness - This is the watcher's crown.