

“Our Day of Reckoning”

Luke 12:1-3; 1 Corinthians 3:5-15

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Anticipation of being “called into the office”
- The purpose of the judgment seat of Christ is NOT CONDEMNATION
 - 2 Corinthians 5:10-- *“we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ that each one may receive the things done in the body, whether good or bad.”*
- Review of the three-fold purpose for our day of reckoning
 - Commendation—reward for faithful, fruitful service
 - Clarification—full disclosure of the facts
 - Conciliation—repair of broken relationships

“Our Day of Reckoning” -- The Judgment Seat of Christ will be a place for

A. Clarification: Full disclosure of the Facts

1. Everything will be “put on the table”.

- Luke 12:1-3 -- *“In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, ‘Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in the inner room will be proclaimed on the housetop.”*
- 1 Corinthians 4:3-5-- *“But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges Me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsel of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God.”*

2. Proper reaction to the full disclosure: The Fear of the Lord

- Luke 12:4-5 -- *“My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear; Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him.”*

3. Will there be “confession” at the Judgment seat?

- a. Sins confessed now will not be dredged up again for review.
- b. We will “agree with God” as to wrongs done.
- c. We will “bow and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord”
 - Philippians 2:10-11 -- *“At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

4. Purpose of Clarification: Total “Clearing of the Air”

B. Commendation: Reward for Faithful, Fruitful Service

- 2 Corinthians 5:10 -- *“we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ that each one may receive the things done in the body, whether good or bad.”*

1. **Criteria: What makes a good work, 'good', and a bad work, 'bad'?"**

- 1 Corinthians 3:5-15-- *"Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Noe he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.*

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay that that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."

a. **Paul's Construction illustration**

- 1) We are laborers together with God.
- 2) The church (local and universal) is God's building
- 3) Paul as the "master builder" who laid the foundation at Corinth
- 4) Others (namely Apollos) built on the foundation.
- 6) Jesus Christ as the foundation and chief cornerstone.
 - Ephesians 2:19-22-- *"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole place of God in the Spirit."*
- 7) The admonition: Be careful how you build.
 - 1 Corinthians 3:10-- *"Let each one take heed how he builds on it."*

b. **A "good work"**

- 1) **Builds up the church, the body of Christ**
- 2) **Is about QUALITY, not necessarily QUANTITY**
 - 1 Corinthians 3:12-- *"Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw".*
 - Mark 9:41-- *"whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."*
- 3) **Is the Work that Christ has assigned.**
 - 1 Corinthians 4:1-2-- *"Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful."*
- 4) **Determined by "fire"**
 - 1 Corinthians 3:13-15 -- *"Each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."*

c. **A "bad work" is worthless, good for nothing.**

2. **Commendation**
 - a. **By Words of Praise**
 - 1 Corinthians 4:5b-- *"Then each one's praise will come from God."*
 - b. **By Issuing of Awards-- the Five Crowns**
 - 1) **Incorruptible**—1 Corinthians 9:25 for mastery over the "old man"
 - 2) **Rejoicing**—1 Thessalonians 2:19 for leading people to Christ
 - 3) **Life**—James 1:12 for enduring the trials of life with faith
 - 4) **Righteousness**—2 Timothy 4:8 for longing for the appearance of Christ
 - 5) **Glory**—1 Peter 5:4 for feeding the flock of God
3. *Will there be regrets and tears?* The meaning of "suffering loss"
4. **Preparation for our "Day of Reckoning"**
 - a. **Concentrate on living a life of integrity NOW.**
 - b. **Focus on the work Christ has given You and serve Him faithfully!**