

Your Day in Court (1 of 6)

This series is about the judgments of God before whom all men will stand. The first thing we need to understand is that those judgments are spread across all that we know as time. For example:

1 Cor 15:22-25 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ **all** shall be made alive. {23} But each one in his own order: Christ the **firstfruits**, afterward those who are Christ's **at His coming**. {24} Then comes **the end**, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. {25} For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

There is firstfruits... there is "at His coming" at the start of the Millennial Reign, and there is "the end". These three separate events run from the resurrection to the end of time at the Great White Throne judgement known in the Bible as the "second death".

In addition to this there is the Judgment seat of Christ, judgment of Israel, judgment of Babylon, the Throne of Christ's glory, and the casting of Satan and his angels, the Beast, the False Prophet, and their armies into the Lake of fire.

In all of this, the work is delegated to the Son by the Father, to the Son and His word.

John 5:22 "For the Father judges no one, but has committed **all** judgment to the Son,

John 12:47-48 "And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. {48} "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him; the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

This delegation took place at the arrival of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ of God, and was instituted upon His death, burial, and resurrection.

Acts 17:30-31 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, {31} "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness **by the Man whom He has ordained**. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Heb 9:27-28 And as **it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment**, {28} so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, **apart from sin**, for salvation.

Until He comes, dead men wait in a place known as Sheol. Believers are received in God's presence immediately upon "falling asleep"... but still await His coming when they receive a glorified body. This will happen at the Great White Throne Judgment.

Rev 20:11-15 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. {12} 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**. {13} 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**. {14} Then Death

and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. {15} And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

To be found in the Lamb's book of life is to go to heaven...or not. What rewards or level of punishment one receives in heaven or hell is based on works. That is, merit won't get you in; that is done by faith. But merit matters as to rewards.

For believers who pass on, the decision between heaven and hell is already established and they immediately stand before Jesus

Rom 14:9-13 For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be **Lord of both the dead and the living.** {10} But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For **we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.** {11} For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." {12} So then **each of us shall give account of himself to God.**{13} Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

Judgment Seat is "bema", the place where Olympic athletes received their crown.

2 Cor 5:10 For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Again, this is not a judgment of condemnation but of works.

Mal 3:16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name.

John 3:18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

1 Cor 11:31-32 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. {32} But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Rom 8:1-4 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. {2} For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. {3} For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, {4} that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

"If we would judge ourselves" = there is one way to avoid destruction in a **prairie fire**...

Sinners – Christ took your penalty - Judge yourself.

Saints – Christ rose to live for you – Judge yourself.

Next lesson: the resurrection of the sinner unto judgment.