

10-17-10

Series: The Resurrections

The Resurrections (26)

The Judgment of Seat of Christ (1)

[\(1 Corinthians 3:10-17\)](#)

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

[Matthew 28:1-10](#)

(Continuation from 10-10-10)

The Doctrine of the Resurrections

[\(1 Corinthians 3:10-17\)](#)

The judgment of the works of the believers (1)

Preamble

This passage continues Paul's discussion ([1 Corinthians 1:10-3:23](#)) of divisions within the Corinthian church. But its more immediate background is the Lord's second coming. Paul shows how worldly and fleshly behavior, and the spiritual division it causes, affects the rewards the Lord will give when He returns.

Moving ahead, he discusses the paradox of rewards; with their sureness (since all of us are equally undeserving) and their uniqueness (in that each of us is rewarded individually). Paul affirms both truths, while waiting for glory to bring final resolution to the paradox.

The Lord's coming to reward His own was one of Paul's greatest motivations. In a sense, everything the apostle did was motivated by that truth. His objective, within the supreme objective of glorifying his God and Savior, was to prepare himself to stand before the Lord and be able to hear Him say, "**Well done, good and faithful slave**" ([Matthew 25:21, 23](#)).

He wrote the Philippians:

[Philippians 3:13-14 \(NASB\)](#)

¹³ **Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead,**

¹⁴ **I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

It was not that he wanted glory or honor for himself, or wanted to prove himself better than other Christians, showing them up in Christian service. He wanted the Lord's highest reward because that would be the most pleasing to the Lord Himself, and would most graphically demonstrate his grateful love.

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In his second letter to Corinth, Paul mentions three specific motivations he had for doing his best for Christ.

First, he wanted to please his Lord: **“We have as our ambition,”** he said, **“whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him”** ([2 Corinthians 5:9](#)).

Second, Christ’s great love controlled everything he did ([2 Corinthians 5:14](#)); his whole ministry was directed by his love of God.

And **third**, he knew that Christ’s work was complete, that **“He died for all”** ([2 Corinthians 5:15](#)), and that therefore the ministry of the gospel would *always* be effective; it could not fail. Jesus Christ had already finished all the work that would ever have to be done for people to be saved.

Paul was not one to do things halfway. When he ran a race or fought a fight, he did so to win—to win the imperishable wreath of His Lord’s reward ([1 Corinthians 9:24-27](#)). He was not competing with other believers, but against his own **weakness, weariness, and sin**.

Though the particular words had not yet been written, Paul always had before him the knowledge that, **“Behold, I [Jesus] am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done”** ([Revelation 22:12](#)).

In speaking about believers’ rewards, Paul was not talking about our judging works or about God’s judging sin. Because all believers will **“stand before the judgment seat of God,”** each of us giving an **“account of himself to God,”** we have no right to judge the work of other believers ([Romans 14:10-12](#)).

We do not even know what rewards we will receive for ourselves, much less what another will receive. Both favorable and unfavorable judging is excluded.

We do not even have the necessary insight to judge unbelievers in the church, who are tares among the wheat (cf. [Matthew 13:24-30](#)).

Obviously, we are to rebuke sin and confront the sinning brother ([Matthew 18:15-19](#); [1 Corinthians 5:1-13](#)), but that is because we can *see* such sin.

Judging motives and the worthiness of reward is for God, who alone knows the heart.