

Sunday, March 23, 2014—The Judgment Seat of Christ—The JSC: Learning About Loss

### Introduction/Review

- The past two Sundays we have been studying Pauline Principles regarding rewards. We did this in an attempt to understand how rewards will be determined at the JSC. In doing so we established the following 8 principles:
  - *Principle 1*—there is a difference between inheritance and reward. (Eph. 1:11-14; Rom. 8:17)
  - *Principle 2*—a man reaps what he sows. (Gal. 6:7-9)
  - *Principle 3*—rewards are simply payment or recompense for a man’s labor. (I Cor. 3:8; I Tim. 5:18)
  - *Principle 4*—rewards are reckoned as a matter of debt. (Rom. 4:4, 11:6)
  - *Principle 5*—rewards are given for bad works. (II Tim. 4:14)
  - *Principle 6*—rewards are reckoned on the basis of works. (I Cor. 3:8, 14-15)
  - *Principle 7*—a believer’s good works are fruit for which they will receive a reward. (Titus 3:14; Col. 1:10)
  - *Principle 8*—rewards are given for work willingly performed; not for things that we are obligated to do. (I Cor. 9:16-18)
  
- Thus far, through the first 11 studies in this series we have observed the following truths regarding the JSC. All believers will:
  - Stand before the JSC (Rom. 14:10)
  - Give account of themselves (Rom. 14:12)
    - Paul considered financial support for the work of the ministry as fruit that would abounded to the believers “account” at the JSC (Phil. 4:17)
  - Appear before the JSC (II Cor. 5:10)
    - The trial by fire will manifest, declare, and reveal the “sort” of every man’s work (I Cor. 3:13)
  - Receive the things done in the body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad (II Cor. 5:10)
    - Both good and bad things done in the body will be rewarded (Eph. 6:8, Col. 3:25)
    - Rewards are given for work willingly performed (I Cor. 9:16-18)
    - Every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor (I Cor. 3:8)
    - Any man’s work that “abides” the trial by fire will receive a reward (I Cor. 3:14)
    - Any man’s work is “burned” will suffer loss of reward (I Cor. 3:15)
  
- Since we have spent the last two weeks seeking to understand how reward at the JSC is determined it seems prudent to also spend some time looking what types of things would cause a believer to suffer loss.

## Learning About Loss

- I Corinthians 3:14-15—in our study three weeks ago, “The JSC: Reward and Loss” we established that there are two possible outcomes for believers at the JSC in I Corinthians 3.
  - Loss of Reward
  - Reward Bestowed
- At the outset, it is important to recall from our study of the principles regarding rewards that there is a positive as well as a negative aspect to rewards. Consider the following scriptural breakdown of the definition for the English word “reward” from *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*.
- “To give in return, either good or evil” (1828)
  - Ephesians 6:8; Colossians 3:25—both good and bad things done in the body will be rewarded.
- “Hence, when good is returned for good, reward signifies to repay, to recompense, to compensate.” (1828)
  - Galatians 6:7-9—a man reaps what he sows.
  - I Corinthians 3:8, I Timothy 5:18—rewards are simply payment or recompense for a man’s labor.
  - Titus 3:14, Colossians 1:10—a believer’s good works are fruit for which they will receive a reward.
- “When evil or suffering is returned for injury or wickedness, reward signifies to punish with just retribution, to take vengeance on, according to the nature of the case.” (1828)
  - II Timothy 4:14—rewards are given for bad works.
- II Corinthians 5:10—at the JSC believers “receive the things done in the body . . . whether it be good or bad.” When the Lord rewards Alexander the Coppersmith for the things done in his body, according to this works at the JSC, which outcome will he receive? I believe he will suffer loss.
- I Corinthians 3:13—remember the trial by fire at the JSC manifest, declares, and reveals the “sort” of a man’s work.
- I Corinthians 3:15—suffering loss of reward at the JSC is representative of the negative aspect of reward based upon the definition presented above. Improper workmanship in building upon the foundation laid by Paul (v. 10) is **rewarded** by being denied or losing reward. In other words, suffering the loss of reward at the JSC is the reward for failing to build properly upon Paul’s foundation.

- Depriving a believer of their reward at the JSC for his or her poor workmanship is the only outcome that is consistent with the Pauline message of grace.
- Ephesians 1:7—believers already have forgiveness of sins
- Colossians 1:14—we already have the forgiveness of sins
- Colossians 2:13—God has already forgiven all of our trespasses
- Romans 5:1—justified members of the body of Christ already have peace with God. The offended justice of God against our sin has already been settled when we trusted the finished work of Christ as the only payment for our sin. One does not even appear before the JSC unless they have trusted the gospel of the grace of God. It would be inconsistent with the justice of God to punish believers for sins that he had already forgiven.
- The problem of sin for a believer is not that he must bear its penalty. It is that it is by definition poor workmanship. Always remember that the JSC is about determining the “sort” of the believer’s workmanship in building upon the foundation of Christ.
- I Corinthians 6:12, 10:23—the test is not lawfulness but expediency
  - Lawfulness is a yes/no question
  - Many things are lawful that are still not profitable
  - We need to make decisions based upon whether or not they edify
- Therefore, **rewarding** a believer’s poor workmanship with **no reward** is consistent with the principles of grace. Next week will we consider some specific issues that could cause a believer to suffer loss at the JSC.