

Sunday, March 30, 2014—The Judgment Seat of Christ—The JSC: Learning About Loss, Part 2

Introduction/Review

- In our last study, after spending two weeks outlining principles regarding rewards we began talking about what it means to “suffer loss” at the JSC. We did this by offering a Scriptural breakdown of the definition of “reward” from the *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*.
 - To give in return, either good or evil. Hence, when good is returned for good, reward signifies to repay, to recompense, to compensate. When evil or suffering is return for injury or wickedness, reward signifies to punish with just retribution, to take vengeance on, according to the nature of the case. (*Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*)
- 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.
- 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.
 - 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
- 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. Therefore, **rewarding** a believer’s poor workmanship with **no reward** is consistent with the principles of grace.
- Updated version of Olympic analogy. Even those who qualify but don’t medal are regarded and renowned as world class athletes.
- This morning what I want to spend some time looking at are specific issues that could cause a believer to suffer loss at the JSC.

Issues That Can Cause One to Suffer Loss

Departing the Faith

- I Timothy 1:18-20—Hymenaeus and Alexander were believers who had made shipwreck of the faith. According to *Webster's 1828 Dictionary*, the English word “shipwreck” means 1) The destruction of a ship or vessel by being cast ashore or broken to pieces by beating against rocks and the like. 2) The parts of a shattered ship. 3) Destruction.
 - II Corinthians 11:25—the same word is used by Paul to describe the physical condition of suffering shipwreck
- II Timothy 2:16-18—Hymenaeus, erred concerning the truth by teaching that the resurrection had already passed. Through his profane and vain babblings he and Philetus overthrew the faith of some.
- II Timothy 4:14-15—Alexander the Coppersmith “greatly withstood” Paul’s words and did Paul much evil. In verse 14 Paul turns him over to be rewarded “according to his works.” Once again, this is indicative of the negative aspect of rewards not the positive.
- I Timothy 1:20—these are men who were believers, they started in the truth both they put away a good conscience with respect to the truth and made shipwreck of the faith. Paul turns these men over to Satan that they might learn not to blaspheme.
- Colossians 2:18-19—undispensational teachers beguile people of their reward because they cause them not to hold the head (i.e. the foundation that Paul laid) and not to increase with the increase of God.
 - Colossians 1:18—who is the head of the body? Christ.
 - I Corinthians 3:10-11—who is our foundation? Christ.
- II Timothy 1:13—following the building imagery one must build upon the foundation using the form of sound words. Any other “sort” of workmanship will not “abide” the trial by fire at the JSC.
- I Corinthians 4:1-2—as members of the body of Christ we have been made “stewards of the mysteries of God.” According to verse 2, it is requirement that stewards “be found faithful.” What is the problem with Hymenaeus, Philetus, and Alexander the Coppersmith? They abandoned their stewardship and made shipwreck concerning the faith and thereby overthrew the faith of some.
- Consequently, these men stand to suffer loss at the JSC for not remaining faithful stewards of the mysteries of God. Remember positive rewards are not given for things we are “required” to do

(be faithful ministers of the mysteries of God), however, negative reward (suffering loss) can be given for failing to do what is required.

Failing to Keep One's Body Under Subjection

- II Corinthians 5:10—the believer is judged according to the good and bad that he did in this life. The JSC includes both our good and bad works.
- I Thessalonians 4:3-4—indulging in fornication and failing to possess ones vessel in honor could cause one to suffer loss at the judgment seat.
- Colossians 3:22-23—believers are to do things “heartily as to the Lord and not unto men.” Why?
- Colossians 3:24-25—because we know that of the Lord we shall receive the reward of the inheritance. Doing wrong in verse 25 will result in receiving for the wrong that we have done.
- In this context what are these verses what wrong is Paul speaking about? He is speaking about the discharging of your family and work obligations.
 - Colossians 3:18—Wives—submit to your own husbands because it is fit in the Lord.
 - Colossians 3:19—Husbands—love your wives and don't be bitter against them.
 - Colossians 3:20—Children—obey your parents because its well pleasing unto the Lord.
 - Colossians 3:21—Fathers –provoke not your children to anger lest you discourage them.
 - Colossians 3:22—Sevants—obey your fleshly master fearing God.
- The discharging of one's domestic responsibilities is going tried by fire at the JSC and will factor in the determining of the “sort” of one's work for good or bad.
- Ephesians 5:21—believers—are to submit to one another in the FEAR OF GOD.
- Ephesians 5:22—wives—submit to your own husband as unto the Lord.
- Ephesians 5:25, 28-29—husbands—love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it.
- Ephesians 6:1—children—obey your parents in the Lord.
- Ephesians 6:4—fathers—provoke not your children to wrath.
- Ephesians 6:5-7—servants—be obedient to your masters as unto Christ.
- Why should be we submit one to another in the fear of God in these ways?

- Ephesians 6:8—because “whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive from the Lord. . .”
- I Timothy 5:24-25—the fire at the JSC reveals the hidden things both good and bad.
 - I Corinthians 4:5
- I Corinthians 9:27—Paul was concerned about being a castaway. The Greek word translated “castaway” is *adokimos*. The Greek word *dokimos* without the “a” is translated approved in Rom. 14:18, 16:10; I Cor. 11:19; II Cor. 10:18; and II Tim. 2:15. When the prefix “a” is added it changes the meaning of the word from a positive to a negative, i.e., from approved to disapproved.
- Paul sought to keep his body under subjection so that he would not be a castaway or disapproved.

Conclusion

- Loss at the JSC can be suffered *Departing the Faith* or by *Failing to Keep One’s Body Under Subjection*. When loss of reward is suffered with respect to either of these categories it can and should be viewed as the negative aspect of reward.