

SIMPLE THOUGHTS ON THE JUDGEMENT SEAT 1 CORINTHIANS 3:8-15

In this passage of scripture Paul is reminding the believers at Corinth, that there is coming a time, when the works of every believer will be tried. At the judgment seat there's going to be a separation of the real from the sham. The wood, hay, and stubble will be burned, and only the gold, silver, and precious stones will bring rewards.

This judgment seat of Christ is all-inclusive. It includes all works, whether true or false. **Notice: vs. 13** ¹³**Every man's work shall be made manifest:** for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. Also, every man will appear there. None shall escape. **Rom. 10:14** ¹⁰But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? **for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.** And again, **1 Peter 4:17** ¹⁷**For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?**

Now, if all our works, labors, and efforts for the cause of Christ are going to be tried and rewarded, it would behoove us to be both **diligent** and **sincere** in our Christian life. I would hate to suffer loss at the judgment seat. John said in 2 John vs. 8 ⁸**Look to yourselves,** that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

How much you do, and your motive behind it, shall be tried. And, only the Gold, Silver, and Precious Stones will be rewarded. I hope you are spiritual enough to understand this, and mature enough to take heed. I'd like now to deal with some simple thoughts concerning the judgment seat.

I. The Formula For Our Labors

- A. God and Man: vs. 9 (For we labor together with God). We are not alone in our efforts.

Illustrate: Last week at camp

Illustrate: Paul in founding the Church

at Corinth: Trouble in at Corinth: Trouble

Acts 18:9,10 ⁹Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: ¹⁰For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.

- B. Grace And Wisdom: vs. 10 (¹⁰According to the **grace** of God which is **given** unto me, as a **wise** masterbuilder,)

- C. Gratitude And Warning: vs. 10 (I have **laid** the foundation)

1. Being Thankful For Work And Labors Of Others:

Illustrate: Israel & Canaan Deut. 6:10-12 ¹⁰And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, **which thou buildedst not**, ¹¹And houses full of all good *things*, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, **which thou diggedst not**, vineyards and olive trees, **which thou plantedst not**; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; ¹²**Then beware lest thou forget the LORD**, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

2. Being Cautious As To How We Build: vs.10 (But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.)

II. The Foundation We Build Upon: vs. 11(which is Jesus Christ.)

A. Is Of Sovereign Design: Psa. 118:22-24 ²²The stone *which* the builders refused is become the head *stone* of the corner.

²³This is the LORD'S doing; *it is* marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴This *is* the day *which* the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

B. Is Structurally Sound: ***Illustrate: The two foundations in Matt. 7:24-29***

1. The Rock and the Sand

2. Being Hearers and not Doers of the Word

3. The Rain, Floods, and the Winds cannot destroy the house that is built upon the Rock.

C. Is A Stone Of Offence To Many: 1 Peter 2:6-8

⁶Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him **shall not be confounded**. ⁷Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, ⁸And a **stone of stumbling**, and a **rock of offence**, *even to them* which **stumble at the word**, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

III. The Fire That Shall Try Us: vs. 13 ¹³Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; **and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.**

A. Is Revealing: (Every man's work shall be made manifest:...because it shall be revealed by fire)

1. The wood, hay and stubble shall be burned up, making manifest the gold, silver, and precious stones.
2. Only the things of value will remain

B. Is Regretful: vs. 15 ¹⁵**If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss:** but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

1. What a tragedy
2. What tears

C. Is Rewarding: vs. 14 ¹⁴If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

THE DAY ISRAEL CAME BACK TO GOD

1 KINGS 18:38,39

In chapter seventeen we have the commencement of the ministry of the prophet Elijah. He pronounces a drought upon the nation of Israel and heaven refuses to give rain except by his word.

During this time of famine the Lord provides for His servant from two different sources. At the Brook Cherith the ravens bring bread and flesh in the morning and the evening, and Elijah drinks water from the brook. The brook being dried up from the lack of rain, the Lord commands a widow woman in Zarephath to sustain him.

(By the way the word Raven means to cover or to overshadow, like dusk when the sun goes down—***the Lord will provide for His people during a famine***)

(The word Zarephath means Refinement, or a Place of Refining Metal—***The Lord also knows how to sustain His people while He tests them, and removes the dross***)

Israel is now in the third year of the famine and Elijah has gone out to meet Ahab, and to call the nations together. Ahab and Jezebel have led Israel into gross idolatry. The majority of the people are far from God; others stand halted between two opinions, but a remnant is left who as yet have not bowed their knee to Baal.

(Mention how so few could pull the people's heart away from God: 1. Prophets 2. Ahab 3. Jezebel)

In the text Elijah has confronted the prophets of Baal and the prophets of the groves. He's convinced the people, that the God who answers by fire shall be their God, and when the fire falls and consumes the sacrifice Israel's heart is turned back and the cry the "Lord, He is God".

But what did it take for Israel to come back to the Lord?

I. HE REPAIRED THE ALTAR OF THE LORD: vs. 30
“and he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.”

A. Our Prayer Altar:

1. **illustrate: Elijah:** 63 words and the fire fell.

2. **illustrate: David: Psalm 55:16, 17**
¹⁶As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me. ¹⁷Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

a. Prayer Altar In The Heart: (Prayer begins with the right attitude of the heart) Psalm 66:18 ¹⁸If I regard iniquity in my **heart**, the Lord will not hear *me*:

b. Prayer Altar In The Home:

illustrate: Daniel 6:10 ¹⁰Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

c. Prayer Altar In The House Of God:

illustrate: The Lord: Matt. 21:13
¹³And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called **the house of prayer**; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

II. THEIR REASONABLE SERVICE WAS DEMANDED:
(The altar is not only a place of prayer, but also a place of sacrifice)

A. The Stones: (Represent the people)

B. The Bullock: (The Lord's burnt sacrifice)

C. The Wood: (Either the sins of the people, or their humanity or flesh;) **(All Was Consumed)**

Romans 12:1 ¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

1. Our Body Is For The Lord: I Cor. 6:13

¹³Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. **Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord;** and the Lord for the body.

Gal. 6:17 ¹⁷From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. (That's Sacrifice)

III. THEY RETURNED TO THE WORD OF GOD: vs. 35

³⁵And the water ran round about the altar; **and he filled the trench also with water.** (Standing Water)

A. The Trench: **Def. A Water Course**

Note: Man's water course is the heart (Dig a ditch)

Note: I believe what we see here is the hiding of God's word in the heart.

IV. THEY REMEMBERED THAT GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE: vs. 38

A. He Consumed Their Sin: (The Word)

B. They Were Caught Up In God: (Carried Away)

V. THE RAIN BEGAN TO FALL:

THE EFFECTS OF SIN

ROMANS 6:23

I'm afraid that we today have forgotten the effects of sin and the reproach that it causes. Prov. 14 :34

³⁴Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin *is* a reproach to any people. Definition of Reproach: *That which causes shame or disgrace.*

Sin Is Transgression Of The Law: 1 John 3:4 ⁴Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

- A. As a Christian you cannot practice sin as a habit: READ 1 John 3: 5-10.
- B. Sin is rebellion toward the commandments of God:
- C. Sin is missing the mark that God has established: Rom. 3:23-25 ²³For all have sinned, and **come short** of the glory of God; ²⁴Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: ²⁵Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are **past**, through the forbearance of God;
- D. As a child of God we are to labor to abstain from all sin: 1 John 2:1 ¹My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:
- E. Sin shall not have dominion over us: Rom. 6:14 ¹⁴For sin **shall not** have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. Rom. 6:1-2 ¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

F. If a person can willingly violate the commandments of God, and their conscience, over an extended period of time; They have never been saved.

I. SIN IS DAMNING TO THE SOUL: Matt. 23:33

³³*Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the **damnation** of hell?*

Ezek. 18:20 ²⁰**The soul that sinneth, it shall die.** The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

Rom. 6:23 ²³**For the wages of sin is death;** but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

James 1:15 ¹⁵Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

A. The Soul Is Separated From God For Eternity: Hell (Luke 16)

1. He Is Tormented By The Flames
2. He Sees The Bliss Of The Saved
3. He Remembers His Past, Opportunities, Luxuries, Family

II. SIN DAMAGES OUR TESTIMONY: *illustrate*

Samson: Judges 16:20-22

Females:

Finances:

Folly:

- A. Lost The Presence Of The Lord: vs. 20²⁰ And she said, The Philistines *be* upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. **And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.**

- B. Lost His Power: vs. 19 ¹⁹And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, **and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head**; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.
- a. They Bound Him With Fetters Of Brass
- C. Lost His Perception: vs. 21 ²¹But the Philistines took him, and **put out his eyes**, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.
- D. Lost His Privileges: vs. 21 ²¹But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; **and he did grind in the prison house.**

III. SIN DESTROYS OUR FAMILIES: *illustrate*

Lot: Genesis 13:5-11

- A. His Problems Begin With Strife: (He and Abrham had great substance) ⁶And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: **for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.** ⁷**And there was a strife** between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.
- B. They Escalated When He Set His Eyes On The Plain Of Jordan: vs. 10 ¹⁰**And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan,** that it *was* well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, *even* as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.
- C. He Separated From The More Spiritual: vs.11 ¹¹Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and **they separated** themselves the one from the other.

Note: Apparently Lot was a very worldly-minded man.

- a. He lost his wife and family because of worldliness.

IV. SIN DECEIVES THE HEART: *illustrate Eve:*

1Timothy 2:14 ¹⁴And Adam was not deceived, but the **woman being deceived** was in the transgression.

Genesis 3:6 ⁶And when the woman saw that the tree *was* **good for food**, and that it *was* **pleasant to the eyes**, and a tree to be **desired to make *one* wise**, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

- A. She Wanted To Experience Sin

The Faithfulness Of God

Outline and notes in Lamentations 3:22,23 Preached on 1-6-2002 P.M.

I don't believe I have to labor a great deal in the text to prove to you, that the God we serve, is faithful. He finishes all tasks and accomplishes every purpose. He is very precise, and he's never slothful. Every promise in the word of God will be fulfilled, even the judgment and the punishment of those who refuse his hand of mercy.

Our text reads, "**It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.**" The Lord is faithful to his people as well as his promises. He has even numbered the hairs of our head.

Psalm 36:5 "Thy mercy, O LORD, *is* in the heavens; and thy faithfulness *reacheth* unto the clouds."

Psalm 92:1,2 "*It is a good thing* to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To show forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night,"

I. He Is Faithful To Save Every Penitent: John 6:37 "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

1. Salvation is not just an act, but a continual work of grace in our heart.
 - a. To preserve us: **I Thessalonians 5:23,24**
"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
²⁴Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*."

- b. To provide for us: **Philippians 4:19** “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”
- 1. His relationship demands it: **Philippians 4:20** “Now unto God and our Father *be* glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**” **FATHER**
- c. To present us: **Colossians 1:21,22** “And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled ²²In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight.”

II. He Is Faithful To Succour The Tempted:

Hebrews 2:18 “For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.”

(To give relief)

I Corinthians 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also **make a way to escape**, that ye may be able to bear it.”

(**Escape = an exit**) (**Bear = to stay under**)

- A. Sometimes temptation will make us great promises that it cannot fulfill: *Illus.* Christ’s temptation: **Matthew 4:8** “Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; ⁹And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.”
- B. Temptations are designed to draw our love and affection away from Christ: **Matthew 4:10** “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”
- C. Temptations may come in the form of afflictions or reproaches: (*Illus.* Daniel)

- D. Temptations may offer us worldly pleasures, honor or riches. (*Illus.* Moses)

III. He Is Faithful To Scourge Every Son: Hebrews

12:6 “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”

- A. To train: **Proverbs 22:6** “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
1. The Lord trains his children: (and they won’t depart when old)
- B. To teach: **Isaiah 48:17** “Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I *am* the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way *that* thou shouldest go.”
- C. To touch: (**scourge**) Def. To make contact = to handle, squeeze chew or gnaw. (*Illus.* Paul’s thorn) **II Corinthians 12**

IV. He Is Faithful To Safeguard His People: (*Illus.*

David and Abiathar) After Doeg had killed the Lords priests and Saul was King. **I Samuel 22:23** “Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou *shalt be* in safeguard.”

- A. A post or sentry: To be preserved.