**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Judgment Seat of Christ |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 1 Corinthians 3:9-17 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1921 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Judgment is something that every person born into this world has to face.
   2. There are three judgments:
      1. The judgment of our sin
         1. We are judged as sinners.
         2. Our sin has to be judged and paid for.
         3. If you are saved, then that judgment has already passed.
            1. When Jesus died on the cross, you died with Him.
            2. When He was buried, you were buried with Him.
            3. When He rose, you arose with Him.
         4. If you are a Christian, then this judgment has already taken place, and you’ll never again come into condemnation.
      2. The judgment of our activity day-by-day as a child of God
         1. As sons and daughters of our Lord, He is going to correct us and chastise us.
            1. This judgment is chastisement, and is spoken of in 1 Corinthians 11.
            2. It takes place day-by-day when God corrects us.
         2. This judgment does not consign you to Hell, but don’t think that just because you’re saved that it makes no difference how you live.
            1. If you are a child of God and willingly, knowingly and deliberately sin, then God will chastise you.

Hebrews 12:6

* + - 1. God is not trying to get even with us.
      2. It’s not the judgment of His wrath.
         1. This is the judgment of His love.
    1. The final judgment
       1. One day we will be judged as servants.
          1. How we have served the Lord will come under review.
  1. 1 Corinthians 3:9-15
     1. In verse 13, the phrase “the fire shall try” literally means that the fire shall test every man’s work.
     2. We are God’s building.
        1. The church is the temple of God; we are the temple of God.
           1. 1 Corinthians 3:16

It is plural: “You all are” the temple of God.

* + - 1. In the Old Testament, God had a temple for His people.
      2. In the New Testament, He has a people for His temple.
      3. The Holy Spirit of God lives in us individually, but He also abides in us corporately when we meet together.
         1. Matthew 18:20
    1. We are to be building up that temple.
       1. We’re to be bringing brothers and sisters, as living stones, into that temple.
    2. The foundation of the temple is the Lord Jesus Christ.
       1. 1 Corinthians 3:11
       2. Matthew 16:18
          1. The church is not built upon Simon Peter, but upon the Lord Jesus.
          2. According to 1 Corinthians 3:11, there can be no other foundation but Jesus.
    3. Our lives are like stones or building materials in that temple.
       1. 1 Corinthians 3:12
          1. There are two kinds of lives represented here:

The gold, silver and precious stones category

The wood, hay and stubble category

* + - * 1. All saved people are in one of those two categories.

All Christians are not of the same quality.

Some Christians are spiritual.

Some Christians are carnal.

* + - 1. Heaven will not be the same for everybody.
    1. There’s coming a time when the spiritual house that you’ve built will be tested.
       1. You have to start with the Lord Jesus.
          1. If you don’t begin to build upon the Lord Jesus Christ, then you’re not saved.
       2. Wood, hay and stubble are cheap, but combustible.
       3. You have to dig for gold, silver and precious stones because they’re precious and permanent.
    2. One day, it will be revealed whether we were a gold, silver and precious stone Christian, or whether we were a wood, hay and stubble Christian.
       1. 1 Corinthians 3:13
          1. The fire of God’s judgment will pass upon our lives.

Even though you may be saved, if your life is a carnal life (wood, hay and stubble), then it will go up in smoke.

* 1. Today’s message will focus on what this day of judgment will be like.
     1. This is the day when the Christian will be judged, not as a sinner or a son, but as a servant.
        1. As a wise master builder, as a laborer.
           1. 1 Corinthians 3:9

1. it will be a time of revelation (1 corinthians 3:13)
   1. Things are going to be revealed.
      1. 1 Corinthians 3:13
         1. This is not the Great White Throne Judgment.
            1. That is for unsaved people.
         2. This is the Bema Judgment, the judgment seat of Christ.
      2. When we come to the judgment seat of Christ, our lives will pass by in dress parade.
         1. Things will look a lot different in the pure light of eternity than they look now.
      3. Our lives will be revealed by fire.
   2. We will see things, not as we see them now, but as God sees them then.
      1. 1 Samuel 16:7
         1. In the light of eternity, what God sees is going to be far different than what people have seen.
      2. Luke 16:15
   3. 1 Corinthians 3:13
      1. It doesn’t say what size but what sort our work is.
      2. When God judges, He will not be looking primarily for quantity but for quality.
         1. He will be looking for the heart when that day comes.
   4. When this day of revelation comes, God will determine whether our lives were wood, hay and stubble, or gold, silver and precious stones.
      1. God will judge our lives as servants according to our attitude.
         1. 1 Corinthians 9:16-17
            1. A man who has been called to preach cannot glory or boast in that because God sovereignly selected him to preach the Gospel.
            2. Paul is saying that he must have the right attitude in what he does.
         2. God is interested, not only in what we do, but in why we do it.
         3. If we preach just because we have to, lead worship because that’s our job, or teach Sunday school because no one else will do it, but we don’t do it willingly, then we will have no reward.
         4. Matthew 6:5
            1. They are seen of men; that’s their reward.
            2. They have no reward in Heaven.
         5. Do you do what you do as unto the Lord?
            1. Do you do it willingly?
            2. This will determine what sort your work is.
      2. We will be judged according to authority.
         1. Do you do what you do with the authority of Almighty God?
            1. Do you have Heaven’s blessing and mandate?
         2. 2 Timothy 2:5
            1. A person who breaks the rules will not receive the reward.
            2. We must serve according to the Word of God.

What does this say, for example, about women preachers?

According to Scripture, God does not call women to be preachers.

1 Timothy 3:2

* + - 1. Some people will come to the judgment seat of Christ and find that they did not strive lawfully.
         1. 1 Samuel 15:22

Saul disobeyed God in order to make an offering to God.

To obey is better than sacrifice.

* + - 1. Do you have the authority of the Word of God to do what you do when you serve the Lord?
    1. We will be judged according to ability.
       1. God is going to judge you, not for what you have done, but for what you could have done.
       2. The great question is not what can God do with someone else, but what can He do with you?
       3. Luke 12:48
       4. God has made you exactly as He wants you to be.
          1. God is not going to compare you with someone else.
          2. God will compare you with whatever talent He has given you.
       5. God is not going to judge us by what somebody else does or could have done.
       6. God judges us according to our own abilities.
       7. Mark 12:41-44
          1. Jesus watched what the people put into the offering.
          2. The widow gave more than all of them because she gave according to her ability.

She gave everything to the Lord.

She will be judged, not according to what a millionaire could give, but according to what she gave.

* + - 1. Mark 14:3-8
         1. Mary did what she could do.
      2. We can all do what we can do.
         1. God will not judge us according to what we can’t do, but according to what we can do.
      3. The great danger in life is not that we will fail to do what somebody else can do, but that we will fail to do what we can do.
    1. We will be judged according to our aspiration.
       1. Not only what we did, but what we aspired to do and wanted to do.
       2. 1 Kings 8:17-18
          1. David wanted to build a temple for God.
          2. The Lord told David that he could not build the temple because he had been a man of war.

David’s son, Solomon, would build the temple.

* + - * 1. At the judgment seat of Christ, both Solomon and David will be rewarded for building the temple, though David did not build it.

It was in David’s heart to build the temple.

* + - 1. When we witness to someone about Jesus and that person refuses the Lord, we’re not judged by the person’s response but by our heart’s desire to win souls to Jesus.
         1. The worst thing about many of us is not that we don’t win souls, but that we don’t try.

We don’t have a soul winner’s heart; we don’t have that aspiration.

1. it will be a time of reward (1 corinthians 3:14)
   1. 1 Corinthians 3:14
   2. Some people get upset thinking that some will receive more reward in Heaven than others.
      1. They think perhaps that God is not fair.
   3. The Bible is very clear that there will be degrees of reward in Heaven.
   4. 1 Corinthians 3:8
   5. Works never bring us to Heaven, but they follow us to Heaven.
      1. Heaven will not be the same for everyone.
         1. The rewards in Heaven will be different.
      2. Revelation 14:13
      3. Revelation 22:12
         1. Works do not save us, but we are rewarded according to our works.
      4. Matthew 6:20
         1. Some will have treasures that others will not have.
      5. 1 Corinthians 3:8
   6. There are many obscure saints who don’t get recognized down here on Earth for their service to Jesus.
      1. They pray and intercede for others.
      2. They write letters to missionaries.
      3. They work in the church nursery.
      4. No one knows their names or recognizes them, but God will recognize them.
   7. Luke 12:48
   8. Matthew 10:42
   9. We should desire a crown so that we may lay it at Jesus’ feet.
      1. Matthew 25:21
2. it will be a time of regret (1 corinthians 3:15)
   1. 1 Corinthians 3:15
      1. “As by fire” may be translated “through fire.”
   2. The searching eyes of God, like a flame of fire, will look at our lives.
   3. Gold, silver and precious stones have already been through the fire.
      1. Those gems were formed by fire.
      2. Gold is purified by fire.
   4. A person whose life is found to be wood, hay and stubble is what the Bible calls a carnal Christian.
      1. This is a worldly person.
      2. Their life has not counted for the Lord.
      3. They will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ and watch all that they have done go up in smoke.
         1. This person is saved if their life is built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ.
            1. If you have received Christ as your personal Savior and Lord, then not one sin will ever be brought up against you again.
            2. God is not going to judge you as a sinner but reward you as a servant.
      4. 1 Corinthians 3:14-15
      5. It is unclear how that loss will come, but it will be a tragic loss.
   5. The reason the Christian whose life is wood, hay and stubble, makes it to Heaven is because the foundation is Christ.
      1. When the test of fire comes and the wood, hay and stubble are gone, the foundation of Christ is still there.
         1. 1 Corinthians 3:11
3. CONCLUSION
   1. If you are not saved, lay that foundation today.
      1. Receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
   2. If you are already saved, live your life with the understanding that every day you live without abiding in the Lord Jesus is a day that’s lost for eternity.
      1. John 15:5
   3. If your life is wood, hay and stubble, it will be burned; and you will suffer loss.
      1. Ask the Lord to search your heart, and commit to live for Him with all of the ability that He has given you.
   4. Let your life count for Christ.
   5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16