



# JUDGEMENT AND REWARDS

**A sermon by Bruce Woolard**



**Sermon Title : Judgement and Rewards**

based on a sermon by Dr Bruce Woolard  
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**Introduction:**

We have already established that conversion and salvation is a free gift received through faith alone. It is not work based, it's by Grace that we are saved – Ephesians 2:8-9 *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

However, salvation by Grace does not mean that it's a licence to live as we wish. We are saved to do God's work and will. In this regard God will judge our works in light of our actions at the Bema Seat of Christ. This judgement ought not to be confused with the Great White Throne Judgement in Revelation 20:11-20 which is for unbelievers.

The **Christian Judgement** is an **appraisal** with **rewards** being **conferred** on Believers based on their faithful service to God and His revealed will through His Word.

The Judgement Seat of Christ – 2 Corinthians 5:10 *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad”*, relates to the winner's podium or rostrum of first, second and third.

Judgement is called the Bema, used in the Corinthian and Olympic games. God has reserved the laurel crown for us.

The Bible mentions ten crowns – five earthly and five heavenly.

The **earthly crowns** are:

1. **Crown of honour** – *Esther 8:15* “When Mordecai left the king’s presence, he was wearing royal garments of blue and white, a large crown of gold and a purple robe of fine linen. And the city of Susa held a joyous celebration.”
2. **Crown of kings** – *2 Samuel 12:30* “David took the crown from their king’s head, and it was placed on his own head. It weighed a talent of gold, and it was set with precious stones. David took a great quantity of plunder from the city.”
3. **Crown of High Priest** – *Exodus 29:6* “Put the turban on his head and attach the sacred emblem to the turban.”
4. **Crown of pride** – *Isaiah 28:1-5* “That wreath, the pride of Ephraim’s drunkards, will be trampled underfoot.”
5. **Crown of thorns** – *John 19:2-5* When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

The **Heavenly crowns**:

1. **Crown of glory** (service) – *1 Peter 5:4* “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the **crown of glory** that will never fade away.” God will honour the labour of those who are faithful stewards of His Word.
2. **Crown of righteousness** (love his appearing) – *2 Timothy 4:8* “Now there is in store for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for

his appearing.” The Lord will reward those who live their lives with the hope of His return.

3. **Crown of life** (martyrs crown) – *Revelation 2:10* “Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your **victor’s crown**.” This crown relates to sacrificial living and those who are prepared to die for their faith.
  
4. **Crown of endurance** (discipline and trials) – *1 Corinthians 9:24-25* “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a **crown that will last forever**.” This reward is for enduring trials and sorrows and not giving up in their journey or race.
  
5. **Crown of joy** (soul winners crown) – *1 Thessalonians 2:19* “For what is our hope, our joy, or the **crown in which we will glory** in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?” This crown is meant to honour those who faithfully witness to family, friends and foes of God’s saving Grace.

***May our Lord bless you and use you as a believer saved through Christ’s atoning sacrifice on the Cross.***



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