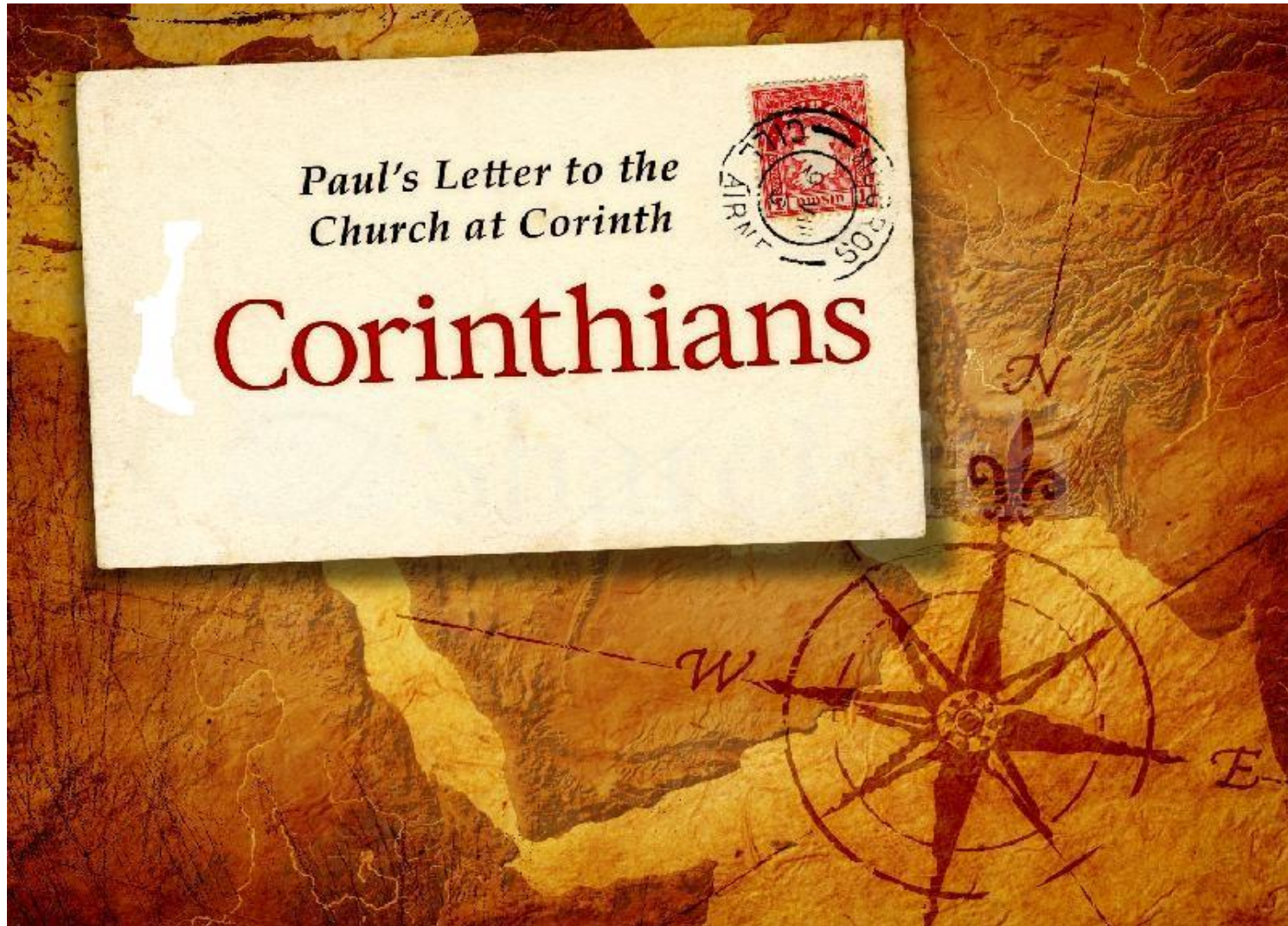


# 2 Cor 5:10 The Judgment Seat (*Bema*) of Christ part 2





## Outline Chp 5:1- 21

- 5:1-4 We Have a Building From God
- 5:5-9 The Spirit As a Pledge and Our Ambition
- 5:10 The Judgment Seat (*Bema*) of Christ
- 5:11-15 The Love of Christ Motivates Us
- 5:16-17 A New Creation
- 5:18-21 The Message of Reconciliation



# MAJOR JUDGMENTS BY GOD

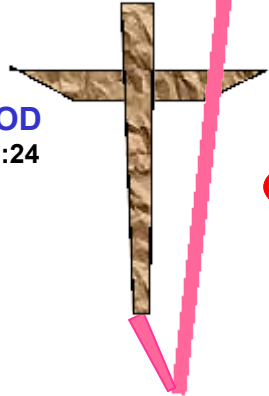
**1. AT THE FALL**  
GEN 2:15- 3:19  
ROM 5:12-19



**2, THE FLOOD**  
GEN 6:1- 7:24



**3. THE CROSS**  
ROM 5:8, 15-21



**5. JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST (BEMA)**  
2 COR 5:10  
ROM 14:10-12; 1COR 3:8-15

**RAPTURE**

**6. THE NATIONS**  
MT 25:31-46

2ND COMING



DAY OF CHRIST

**4. TRIBULATION**  
(DAN'S 70th WK.)  
MT 24:3-31; REV 6:1-19:31

**9. PURGING OF THE EARTH**  
2 PET 3:10-12



**8. GREAT WHITE THRONE**  
REV 20:11



**7. SATAN, BEAST & FALSE PROPHET**  
REV 20:10



7 YEARS

1000 YEARS

CREATION

NOAH

PENTECOST

# The Judgment Seat (*Bema*) of Christ is NOT

## Judgment of The Nations (Matt. 25:31-46)

1. **Time:** Immediately after Tribulation/2<sup>nd</sup> Advent
2. **Place:** On earth
3. **Subjects:** The living (all nations)
4. **Basis:** Acceptance / Rejection of Christ
  - a. **Believers** – works out from faith by accepting Christ's messengers
  - b. **Unbelievers** – no works out from faith by rejecting Christ's messengers
5. **Condition:**
  - a. No resurrection mentioned
  - b. No books mentioned
  - c. Separation is made & judgment given before the reason is stated
6. **Judge:** Son of Man (Lord Jesus Christ)
7. **Results:**
  - a. Believers to Kingdom & to eternal life
  - b. Unbelievers to lake of fire

## The Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15)

- Immediately after the Millennial Kingdom
- In the heavens before the G.W. Throne
- The dead (from all ages)
- Rejection of Christ  
**Unbelievers** – not in the Book of Life  
– their works (self-righteousness) are judged from the Book of Works
- a. Resurrection mentioned
  - b. Books mentioned
  - c. Books carefully examined & judgment after the reason stated

<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.



## judgment seat of Christ

judgment seat - *bēma* - primarily, “a step, a pace,” as in Acts 7:5, translated “the step,” was used to denote a raised platform, reached by steps.

- In Grecian games in Athens it was called the “*bema*” or “reward seat.” From here the umpire rewarded all contestants. It was never used of a judicial bench.

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- Thus it is better to refer to the “Judgment Seat of Christ” as the “Reward Seat of Christ.”

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# Overview



- Believers are to stand and appear before the *Bema*.
- Believer's works (good or worthless) will be tested at the *Bema*.
- Believer's works are built on the foundation of Jesus Christ.
- Will we be aware of our worthless works that will be burned up ?
- What is the nature of our reward?
- What are we going to confess & give an account of ?



## Comparison of Verses A

Rom 14:10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For **we will all stand before** the judgment seat of God [Christ KJV]

2 Cor 5:10 For **we must all appear before** the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.



## Believers are to “stand” & “appear” before the *Bema*\*

- **stand** (*paraistemi* - *Lit:* to stand by, beside or near)
  - Implies we have our resurrected bodies
  - We are standing “by or beside” Him – intimate position
  - It shows our nearness to Christ
  - We are observing what He is lovingly revealing to us
  - We are not standing “before” Him as one would before a judge
- **appear** (*phaneroo* – to be made manifest, be uncovered or laid bare - *passive voice* – being acted upon)
  - Our works will be laid open or uncovered to us by Christ
  - Implies that we are not aware at the present time of the quality of our works – Rom 2:16



## Comparison of Verses B



2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds [works] in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

1 Cor. 3:12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> each man's work will become evident [manifest]; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.



# Believer's works will be tested

Whether they be good or bad [worthless] 2 Cor 5:10

It will be revealed by fire - our type of works - 1 Cor 3:13

“works” (“ergon” - deeds, or acts)

- wood, hay, stubble -1 Cor 3:12
- gold, silver, precious stones

each man's works **will become manifest** - 1Cor 3:13

- “will become” (future tense of “*ginomai*” – to come into a new state of being)
- The type of works/deeds will be manifest (“*phaneros*” - apparent, visible)
- So the type of our works (either good or bad) is not known by us now

<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.



## whether good or bad

good - *agathos* - being "good" in its character (God's) or constitution, is beneficial in its effect

### Here are a few aspects of good works:\*

- The entire plan for good works has been predetermined by God
- We are the vessels He uses to implement His plan - Eph 2:10
- God is the one who energizes us both to will & do His plan Phil 2:13
- God is also the one who begins the good work & completes it- Phil 1:6
- God's criteria for good works = It fulfills His eternal purpose
- Which is declaring, revealing, sharing His glory
- And then being glorified through our (His) work
- They are imperishable (gold, silver, precious stones) - 1Cor 3:14

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<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.



**bad** - *phaulos* - common, bad, in the sense of being worthless or contemptible; *phaulos* is often used with one's practices

Thus "bad" works are our worthless practices – worthless to God in that:\*

- The source is not Christ - John 15:4,5
- They are not out of faith – thus can't please God - Heb 11:6
- They do not glorify God – only good works glorify God  
- 1Pet 2:12
- They are perishable (wood, hay stubble) - 1Cor 3:13,15
- They will be burned ("katakaio" – lit: "burned down",  
intensive = totally consumed) - 1Cor 3:15

\* Molloy



1 Cor 3:10c But each man must be careful how he builds on it. <sup>11</sup> For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw.

- This is a work that God did not prepare beforehand, but we have decided that this work will please God so we do it in our own power and strength.

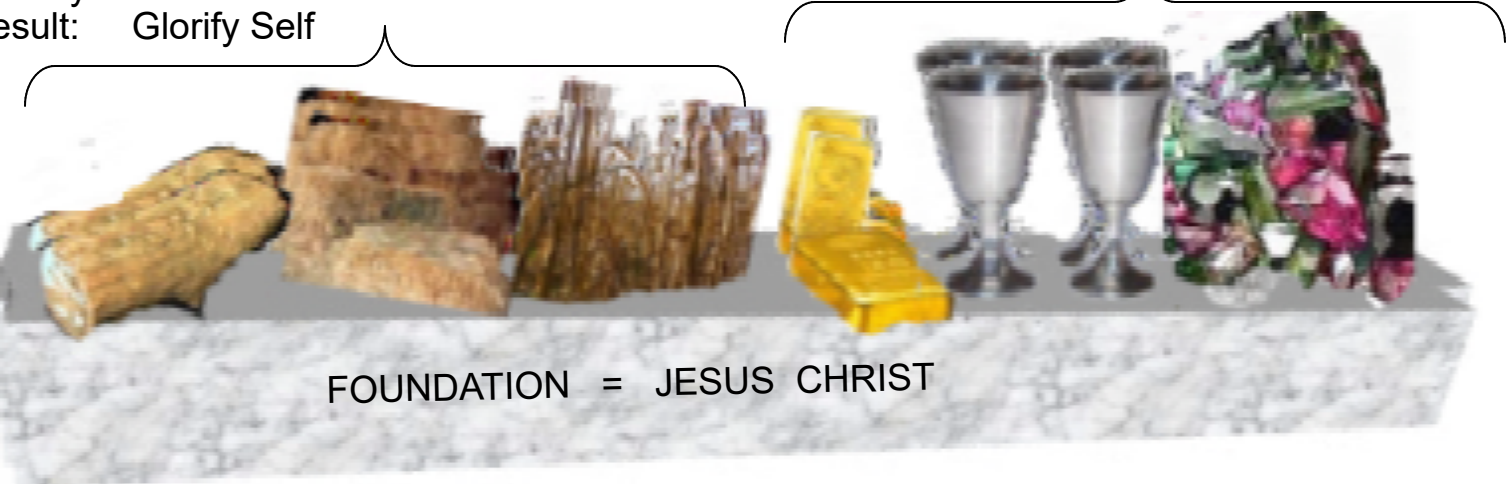
- This is a work God has prepared beforehand that we should walk in it and by faith and trust in Christ we do walk in this work.

**BAD (WORTHLESS) WORKS**

- Source : The Flesh
- Destiny: Perishable
- Result: Glorify Self

**GOOD WORKS**

- Source: Christ
- Destiny: Imperishable
- Result: Glorify God





# Will we be aware of our worthless works that will be burned up ? – part 1

**Answer:** It does not appear so for the following reasons:\*

- We appear at the *Bema* in our glorified bodies.
- We are complete, perfect, and not a trace of shame or sin.
- The wrong motives that produced the worthless works have been forgiven. - Eph 1:7
- The source of the wrong motives (Sin Nature) has been removed. – 1 John 3:2
- All that remains is the product of our Sin Nature which is the worthless works.



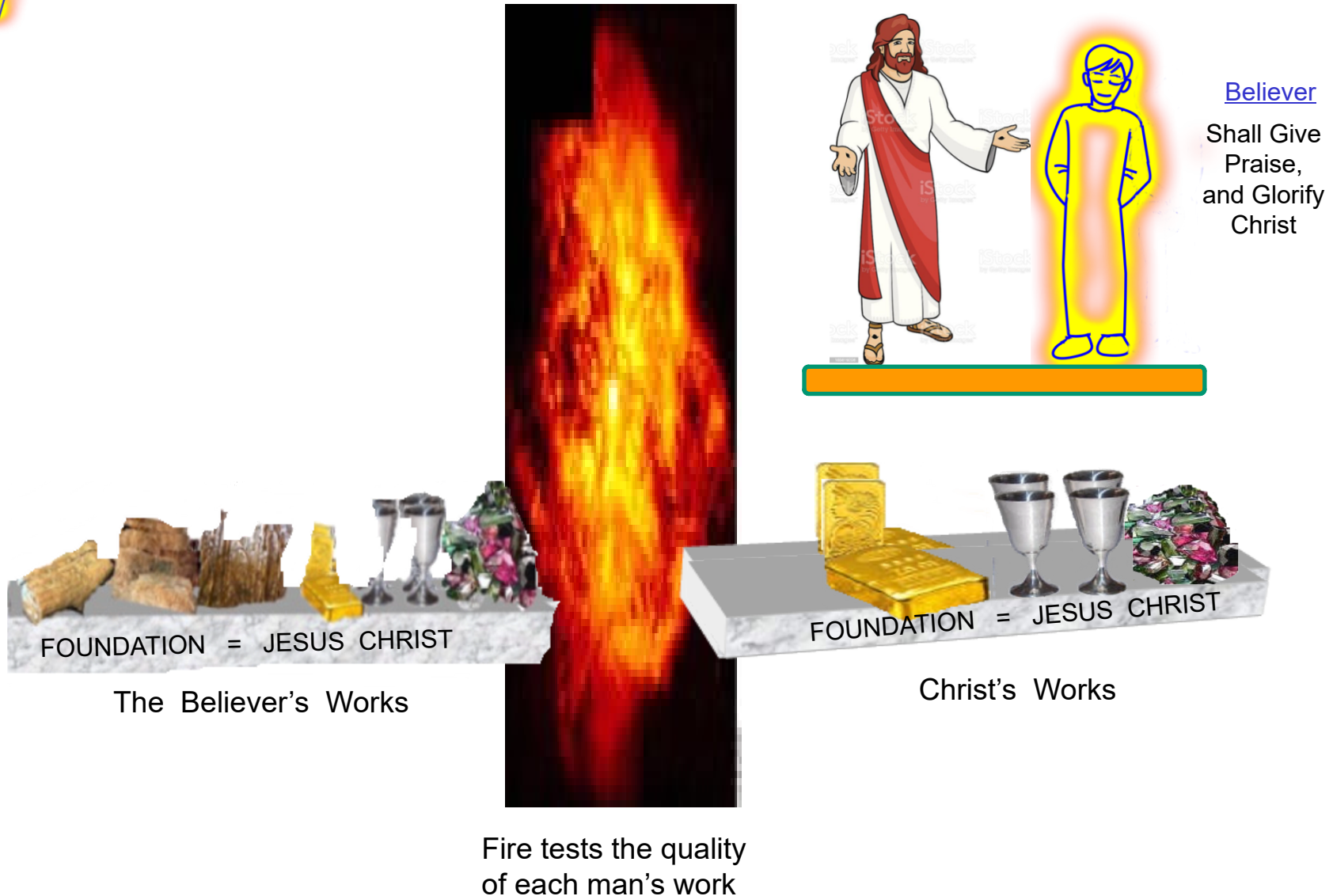
# Will we be aware of our worthless works that will be burned up ? – part 2

**Answer:** It does not appear so for the following reasons:  
(cont.)

- God is now clearing the foundation of all worthless works that are not of Christ.
- God's purpose at the *Bema* is to reward the believer!!  
- 1 Cor 3:8,14
- We are standing by Christ at the *Bema* (Reward Seat) on the side of the fire that reveals the works that abide.
- Thus we can't see the worthless works that are consumed by fire.



# The *Bema* (Reward Seat) of Christ







# What is the nature of our reward?

Our reward will be in accordance with God's eternal purpose in His predetermined plan of good works. - Eph 2:10

## Main points:

- You became a new creation in Christ.
- Christ shared His glory with you (positionally).
- God is now revealing the glory of Christ to you via His Word.
- As you behold His glory by faith the Holy Spirit forms Christ's glory in you (conditionally) & you grow in His grace.
- We are God's vessel containing the glory of Christ (treasure)
- Reward at the *Bema* - the capacity to glorify our Lord Jesus
- The greater the reward, the greater the bestowed capacity to bring glory to God. It will be Christ and not the believer that is glorified by the reward.

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# What are we going to confess and give an account of ?

Rom 14:11 For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise [confess KJV] to God."

**confess** (*exomologeō* - lit: "to say the same out from") - utilized 2 ways:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - confess (as in confession of sins)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - thanks or praise
- **praise** is the better translation
  - This is a quote from Isa 45:25 & "praise" is the context.
- **confess or praise** = "to say the same out from" one's heart
  - or glorifying the Lord at the *Bema*
  - the greater the reward – the greater the capacity to praise & glorify Him

Rom 14:12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

- **account** (*logos* – words used in expressing the knowledge of someone)
- our account at the *Bema*
  - It will be an expression of our knowing Him. - Phil 3:10
  - We will express out from our hearts the magnificence of His essence.

# The Reward Seat (*Bema*) of Christ

1. **Time:** Between the Rapture & 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent (Immediately after the Rapture)
2. **Place:** At our home – in heaven - 1Thes 4:13-18; Phil 3:20,21
3. **Subjects:** Church age believers (those in Christ) - 2Cor 5:8,9,10
4. **Basis:** The purpose of the *Bema* is rewards (It's a “reward seat” not a “tribunal”) Our reward will be the capacity to glorify our Father and Lord Jesus.
  - **The greater the reward** – the greater one manifested the glory of Christ in this life
  - **The lesser the reward** – the lesser one manifested the glory of Christ in this life
5. **Conditions:**
  - a. We are in our glorified spiritual bodies
  - b. No books mentioned
  - c. Separation is made between good & bad works by fire
6. **Judge:** Lord Jesus Christ
7. **Results:** Our praise & account at the Bema will be to glorify & magnify the essence of our Father & Lord Jesus - Rom 14:11,12