

1 Corinthians 3

Sunday 11/2/2003

Good to have you here today. We are looking forward to a good time in the Word of God this morning. Good singing, good music, just good everything. We appreciate all that God gives us here, and we do have fun. We just enjoy the Bible. We do not have any hidden agenda whatsoever, other than just teaching the Word of God and laying out the Bible as God intended it to be laid out.

We have been talking here, once we finished our study on how to build a church, about how to build a relationship with the Lord. We have so many young couples and so many people that are right there where they really want to find how to build the right kind of relationship with the Lord. There are a lot of people today that are just seeking to find out if God's Word is what it claims to be. There are a lot of people that are just looking for some answers today, and the Bible has those answers. Our job as a church is to try to answer that and to lay out the Word of God. So we have been talking about how to build the right kind of relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God.

We have been talking about how to build a relationship with the Lord Jesus and the Word of God. We talked about having to define some things. Last time we talked about how the Bible goes together in a series of sevens. When God wrote the Bible, God wrote it in a way that anybody could figure it out. It is a number system, and the number seven in the Bible is the number of completion. When God does something in the Bible, He will always do it by sevens. We gave you a whole list of them last time. We talked about the fact that there were seven mysteries in the Bible. We talked about the fact that there are seven resurrections, seven natural laws, seven changes to this earth. We talked about the fact that there are seven judgments. I told you that three of those judgments fit into the Christian life, and we talked about starting to define that.

I. The Three Judgments

At the cross of Calvary, you were defined by God as a sinner. When Christ died on the cross, there was no question about it. His death on the cross made every man, woman, and child above the age of accountability a sinner that needed a Savior. So when you got saved, God no longer looks at you as a sinner. God now looks at you as His Son.

We talked about the aspect of these three judgments for a child of God: sinner, son, and servant. At Calvary's cross, you and I were judged a guilty sinner. The moment you and I trust Christ as your own personal Savior, you are no longer a sinner in God's sight, even though you still do not do things right. But now you are God's child. We talked about it last week in great detail. We talked about how that once you get saved, now you are God's son. God never looks at you as a sinner again from that point on. He looks at you as His child. The question is not, "Are you a sinner or not?" The question is, "Are you an obedient child or a disobedient child?"

At Calvary's cross, you were judged as a sinner. When you get saved and you live your life on this earth, God judges you as a son. That is judgment number two. But there is coming a time

when God is going to judge you as a servant. Sinner, son, and servant. Sinner, son, and servant. Sinner, son, and servant. You and I were judged as a guilty sinner at the cross of Calvary. The moment you and I trust Christ as our own personal Savior, and we go through our Christian life, God never judges us as a sinner. God judges us as a son. I did not say that God did not judge your sin and deal with your daily disobedience. I said, God looks at you now not as a sinner, but as His son. But there is coming a day when we will be judged in the third judgment to the Christian, and that will be judged as a servant: sinner, son, and servant.

II. The Judgment Seat Of Christ

That judgment will be the last one, and that is where we are going to focus our attention today. We are going to look at it because it is certainly the most important doctrine for the Christian in all the Bible. I have observed Christianity over the years, and I have watched how it has degenerated. I have watched how it has gotten later to sin. It has gotten to the place where it has lost its punch. I can trace it back, and I believe that a lot of what we are seeing today in Christianity that has nothing to do with the Bible, has nothing to do with God. It is all tradition. It has to do with the way we have done it for a thousand years. So this is the way the church has been, and we are not going to change. We have these traditions, and they have nothing to do with God. They have nothing to do with the Bible. I believe that the church has lost sight of some things, and I want to talk to you about the Judgment Seat of Christ today.

I must confess to you that most preachers, when they preach to their people about the Judgment Seat of Christ, it is a clubbing. It is a tool that a lot of preachers use to intimidate their people. It is a message that a lot of people use to really beat their people up. That is not my purpose today. I am not saying there is not a time when a church crowd does not need to be "beat up," and they do not need to be preached to hard. But my goal today is to just help you understand this. My goal today is to help you to see the three judgments and how they approach your life. Because the judgment of Calvary is very important to understand that at that judgment you were judged as a sinner. It is very important to understand and see that the moment you got saved, God no longer looked at you as a sinner. God now looks at you as His Son. The rest of your life God deals with you as a father deals with His son. But there is coming a day when God is going to judge you and me, not as a sinner (that was at Calvary), not as a son (that is on this earth), but as a servant. You and I are going to stand before God and give an account of what we did with the Lord Jesus Christ since we have been saved.

III. The Corinthian Church And The Judgment Seat

I wanted you to turn to the book of 1 Corinthians chapter 3 because I want to talk to you about it, and this is one of the great places in the Bible. In fact, the church at Corinth was a church that was much like the church today. The church at Corinth, as many of you know, was a very worldly church. It had lost its perspective. It was doing a lot of spiritual things and a lot of Christian things, but it was far removed from the Bible and biblical principles. Paul writes the book of 1 Corinthians, and in every chapter he deals with them on an issue that they have forgotten. He deals with them on an issue that they once knew, but they have lost their

perspective on it, and they have gotten into this clouded, shrouded, mystic Christianity, much like we find today where everybody is doing their own thing. Of course, that is not God's thing. So he writes the book of 1 Corinthians trying to get them back online doing what is right. They do. They respond. Therefore, he writes the book of 2 Corinthians, and where he tries to really deal with their sin in the first book, he tries to deal with their goodness, and now that they want to do what is right in the second book. It sets a great example for all of us, because you are going to find people in your life that are just like the church at Corinth. When they do not want to do what is right, you admonish them through the Word of God to do what is right. But the moment they want to do what is right, then you are obligated to help them do what is right and get to the point where they can really have a working relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. But in both books, 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians, he makes a reference to the Judgment Seat of Christ. Clearly, the Judgment Seat of Christ is the number one issue that you and I as a child of God need to understand.

1 Corinthians 3:9

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:10

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1 Corinthians 3:11

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:12

Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

1 Corinthians 3:13

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.

1 Corinthians 3:14

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

1 Corinthians 3:15

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

1 Corinthians 3:16

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

1 Corinthians 3:17

If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

1 Corinthians 3:18

Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

1 Corinthians 3:19

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

1 Corinthians 3:20

And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

1 Corinthians 3:21

Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours;

1 Corinthians 3:22

Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours;

1 Corinthians 3:23

And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We ask, our Father, to be with us today, give us the wisdom and the insight into the Word of God, help us to apply what we learn today and help us to grow, that we can build that relationship with You. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

IV. Two Important Days

Without a doubt, this is the most important doctrine for the Christian. There are two days in the Bible, two days that you need to mark in your Bible. These days are very important because they define something. That is what we are doing right now. What we are doing in our study is we are defining things. We already talked about the one when we came through the gates back there in Nehemiah. We talked about the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord is the second coming of Christ. The Day of the Lord is the day that the Lord God comes back and sits down on the throne in Jerusalem and is crowned King of Kings and Lord of Lords. It is on your chart, if you look on your chart, there toward the end of the Tribulation period. That is the Day of the Lord.

But there is another day in the Bible, and that day is called the Day of Jesus Christ. Two days. One is called the Day of the Lord. The other one is called the Day of Jesus Christ. The Day of the Lord is the day that the Lord comes back and He establishes His kingdom with the nation of Israel. The Day of Christ is the day that Christ comes back and gathers His church together, us.

So the greatest day for us as a child of God is the day that Christ comes back. We are looking for Him. We are looking for Jesus Christ to come and take us out of here, that we can spend an eternity with Him. That is what it is all about. When you understand the three judgments—sinner, son, and servant—you must then also realize that the thing that we as the church must be looking forward to is the Judgment Seat of Christ.

When Paul wrote to the church at Corinth the second time, in 2 Corinthians 5:8-11, he said that we are all going to stand and appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ. He calls it the terror of the Lord. He says that we are going to receive the things that are done in our bodies.

V. Understanding God's Plan And Serving Him

Let me just say this to you. God has a plan. It is on your chart. We talked about it the other night. God has a plan. God's plan is from Genesis to Revelation. God has a plan. You and I are part of that plan. When you go back and look at the Old Testament nation of Israel, you see that Israel was part of the plan in the Old Testament. The church, you and I, are part of the plan in the New Testament. It is no accident that you were saved when you were saved. It is no accident that God died for you and wants to save you if you are not saved. It is no accident that you were born in the year you were born in, in the country you were born in. God has something He wants you to accomplish.

The successful Christian is not somebody who gets saved, gets a job, makes lots of money, has lots of kids, and has all the nice things in life. I am not saying there is anything wrong with that, but that is not how God judges success. The successful Christian in God's viewpoint is the man or the woman who figures out after they are saved what God wants them to do with their life and then dedicates their life, without anything else that they do, to fulfill that. Because at the Judgment Seat of Christ, the Bible says that every man and every woman is simply rewarded for being a servant. Serving God. Serving God. What does that mean? That is a term we hear a lot about today. Almost every preacher uses that probably four or five times in his sermon about serving God. Serving God. What does that mean? Does that mean you come to church? To some people, that is the definition of serving God. Does that mean when you serve God that you give money? That is what some people think it is. Other people think it is doing this or doing that. "I am serving God. I am serving God." I hear it all the time. "Well, I am serving the Lord." That is fine. But what does that mean? Do we understand today from the Bible standpoint what it means for you and for me as a saved person to serve God? It is simple. It is not complex. It is very easy. Serving God simply means, by Bible definition, that you find out what God is doing. You find out where you are at in this world in relationship to what God is doing. Then you do everything in your power to go along and help that program of God, understanding what that entails in your life.

You do not find that out overnight. I must confess that we have people in here this morning that are young Christians. We have some that have been saved for years and years and years, and you understand all of this. We have a lot of other people who are trying to learn it. They are trying to sort it all out. That is why my job is to define it for you as cleanly as I can, that you go away every time we meet teaching the Bible, you go away saying, "I understand something better now

than I understood before." Today the bottom line is if I can just get you to understand what it means to serve God, what it means to serve God, and how that you and I as a child of God have to have the concept of the Judgment Seat of Christ in our lives to keep us honest.

Because there is a day, it is a lot like this: if you ever spent any time in the military, whether you are in the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, or the Marines, you know that you got liberty. In the Navy they call it liberty. In the Army, the Air Force, the guys they call it leave. You are in a base someplace and you get a weekend pass, and you get to go out, but you have to come back. When you come back, if you did anything wrong while you were out there, it catches up with you when you come back. If you got arrested, if the shore patrol picked you up, the MPs got you, if you got in a fight and the brawl tore up a bar, whatever the case. When you got back to base, you had to give them an account of your liberty. What did you do while you were out there on liberty, on leave, on your weekend pass?

It is the same way with a Christian. Right now, if you are saved, you are a child of God. You are in this world, but you are not of this world. God has given you a mission to do. God has given you something that He wants you to accomplish. Your job is to go through the Word of God systematically, learn everything you can about the Bible, and in the process, God will show you clearly because God has a plan. It does not make any difference if the world does not believe that. It does not make any difference if you can pick up a thousand different books that go against what the Bible says. The Bible says, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word will never pass away." The Bible says, "Let God be true, and every man a liar." So it is one of those things where God is right on schedule. God wants you part of that program. Your job and my job is to find out what that is. Your job and my job is to find out how we do that.

In fact, if you come down here through 1 Corinthians 3, you begin to see it. Look at verse 9. He says this: "For we are labourers together with God." We are laborers together. That means that God has put us together to do a job. That means that it is not just as important that you were born in America whenever you were born, in Kansas City or wherever, but you are here today in Kansas City. It is also relevant the fact that you are here. God has put us together and will continue to bring people to us who will want to see this, will want to raise their families right, will want to have strong marriages, will want to have good family relations with their kids, that want good values. As they build into that, they will see the bigger picture of all this and they will say, "I want it. There are two buses out there. One the devil is driving and one God is driving. I want to get on God's bus. I want to go the way He is going." You and I need to understand that just as any GI gives an account of his liberty when he gets back, at the Judgment Seat of Christ, you and I as a child of God will give an account of what we did with our liberty while we were here on planet Earth.

The Bible says first of all that we are laborers together with God. You are God's husbandry. You are God's building. There are two phrases there. God's husbandry. A husbandry is not somebody who is married. That is somebody that takes care. In the Bible, in the Old Testament, a husbandman was somebody who dressed a vineyard. It was somebody who took care of the vineyard, took care of this, took care of that. They went out there and they took care of all those

things. The Bible says that you and I are a husbandman. We are to take care of something. We are to take care of what God has given us. We are to take care of that. We are God's husbandry.

The Bible says you are God's building. I have said it before, but I am going to say it again because repetition is the price of learning. I have said it and I will keep on saying it. We all understand it, and it is worth hearing again. It is pretty profound to me no matter how many times I hear it. It is simply this: the Bible says you are God's building. A little bit later on it says you are God's temple. We know in the Old Testament God had a literal temple fixed in a literal part of this planet. The Bible says that all the world came to that temple to worship. In the New Testament it is not that way. In the New Testament your body, my body, once I am saved, now this body is the temple. Where in the Old Testament the temple was fixed and it was a literal building and the whole world came to it, in the New Testament it is a spiritual building and I am to take the temple to the whole world. That is what God's plan is. God not only has a plan, God has a message because God is trying to accomplish something. You and I must understand that we are God's husbandry. We are God's building.

Verse 10: "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon." The Bible says that we are to be a wise master builder. A wise master builder. He said down there, "I have laid the foundation." Very frankly, the foundation that is laid is Jesus Christ. He says down here, verse 11, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Translation: the day you got saved in your life you laid a foundation. That foundation is Jesus Christ. He is called the Rock in the Bible. He is the bedrock. He is the chief cornerstone. Why do you think that Christ keeps being portrayed in the Bible as a building component? He is called the foundation. He is called the chief cornerstone. He is called the Rock. He is called the foundation. He is called all of these things that have to do with building. The reason He is, is because you and I are to build something on that foundation.

When you look at people, Christian people, you see different people. You see men, you see women, tall, short. You see people with blonde hair, brown hair, blue hair, whatever. You see all kinds of things. But in reality, when you look at a bunch of saved people, you know what you really see? You see a bunch of buildings in different stages of completion. Samia, you look like the Empire State Building. You are tall, you are strong. I am not talking about physically. I am talking about spiritually. You are tall, you are strong, you know the Bible, you have a good foundation. There is nobody going to talk you out of what you believe. If you got hung up out there at the airport someplace or somebody came to your door, some cult group or whatever, nobody is going to shake you in what you believe. Your roots are down. You build upon the foundation. You are strong, you are tall, and you have all the things that you need to make your family exactly what God wants it to be and to make your own personal life strong for the Lord. Some of you are halfway up. Some of you have the foundation laid. Some of you have the place where you have the walls up. Some of you have the windows in. Some of you have the plumbing in your building, but you are not to the place where you are complete, you are finished. Some of you have just laid the foundation. You just got saved. You have just come to the point where you are trying to figure all this out. I do not know where you are at, but I do know this: everybody

today that is saved is in some stage of spiritual building. The Bible says you are to be a wise master builder. Wise means to understand that there are some things that will help you and some things that will hurt you. A wise master builder. "I have laid the foundation and another buildeth thereon but let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon." He says pay attention how you build on this foundation. There are some things you have to put down on the foundation after you get saved. He says do it as a wise master builder. Do it as somebody who understands what they are doing.

VI. The Fire And The Motive

He says in verse 12, "Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 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." Look at verse 12 and 13. He says upon this foundation you can build three things. Three things are good, three things are bad. The first three are gold, silver, precious stones. The last three are wood, hay, and stubble. He says down there that every man's work shall be made manifest for the day shall declare it.

The Judgment Seat of Christ is a judgment that does not deal, and I want you to understand this because a lot of people get confused on this. A lot of people think that at the Judgment Seat of Christ, God is going to beat them up because they had some sin in their life that they struggled with. They think that at the Judgment Seat of Christ God is going to, they are going to lose rewards because of the fact that they got out of fellowship with God or they did this or they had some sin in their life that they struggled with or something that they did in their life. Let me tell you something, the Judgment Seat of Christ is not about that. God takes care of those things on this earth as He judges you as a son. You either confess it when you make a mistake and get it right, or God comes down and puts His arm around you and says, "Let's go to the woodshed." God deals with you in that manner. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, God is not going to deal with you on sin in your daily life. It was paid for at Calvary. It needs to be judged every day in your life when you do it. But at the Judgment Seat of Christ, it is very clear that something else is the issue here, and that is the motive.

Do you know how good God is? I am going to tell this to you young Christians because I love you and I want you to hear this. Let me tell you how good God is. I am 53 years old. Some of you are older than me. D. Bracken is in his 70s back there. He is our elder statesman back there. Jan, he is pushing 90, but he is doing okay. Let me tell you something. We have served God a long time. We have hung in there for a long time. Everybody has their ups and downs. But let me just tell you something. It is a fight. It is a fight. Do you know what the real key to the Judgment Seat of Christ is? I am going to give you something that is worth a million dollars. This is worth a million dollars. Do you know what the key to the Judgment Seat of Christ is? It is simple. It is your attitude of heart.

Let me explain that. We are having church this morning. I give an invitation. Somebody in the back there or in the front here, somebody says, "I need to get saved." Or maybe it is Thursday night Bible study, and I give the invitation. Somebody says, "I want to get saved." One of the

guys takes him out or one of the gals, whoever, and you show him through the Word of God. That person asks Christ to come into their heart and save them. Right there, they say to God in their heart, "God, I want to do what is right. I want to give You the rest of my life." Now, if the rapture would come at that moment, or that person would die, you realize that at the Judgment Seat of Christ, God rewards you on the basis of your attitude of heart. Even though somebody died right then, or the Lord came, somebody would say, and I have heard them say this, "Well, I just got saved. I think the Lord is coming back, and I just want to have some time to really do something for Him." Well, I can appreciate that, and that is good. But you may not have the time, will you? Somebody would say, "Well, that is really fair. I do not have time to do anything to get any rewards for the Lord." Hey, let me tell you something. It is not about doing anything that gets your reward for the Lord. It is about what you have in here. If you got saved right now and got up and said, "I want to do what is right with God, and I want to serve Him," and the rapture came, God would have to give you every reward in heaven that He would have given you if you had lived your life the whole time and went to the end for the next 60 years and served God. Do you know why? Because it is not based on what you do. It is based on what you say in here.

Do you know how I know that? Do you know what David said? David said, "I want to build a house for the Lord." God says, "You cannot build it, David. Your son is going to build it." But, "Because it was in your heart to do it, I am going to bless you for it." I am telling you, your attitude of heart is the key. Your attitude of heart. That is why no matter what, you have to keep the attitude of heart with God right where it needs to be. That is what the Judgment Seat of Christ is about. It is not about what you did. It is not about how many beers you drank or how many this or how many that. It is about when you got saved, your attitude of heart was such that, "God, I know I fail You and I know I am miserable and I do not do what is right. But deep down inside of my heart, I love You more than anything else in the world. I love that book and I want to do what is right every day of my life." Attitude of heart. Attitude of heart. That is the key. That is the key. That is what it means to build a relationship with God. That is what the Judgment Seat of Christ is about.

It is about what he says down here. He says, "Every man's work shall be made manifest." God is going to manifest it. Look what he says: "For the day shall declare it. It shall be revealed by fire." What does fire do? Fire tries things. He says, "gold and silver." Do you know what happens when they get into fire? They only get pure. Something is going to be made manifest. Something is going to be declared, and it is going to be revealed by fire. The fire is going to try every man's work. Try it. Then he says, "of what sort it is." Do you know what He is going to do? He is going to sort everything out. He is not going to ask you at the Judgment Seat of Christ what you did or what you did not do. He is simply going to ask, "Why did you do what you did?" He is not going to ask you how many people you won to Christ in your lifetime. There are men and women today that win hundreds of people to Christ. When they get to the Judgment Seat of Christ, they are going to lose everything. Do you know why? Because they are doing it to be seen now. They are doing it to be impressive now. They are doing it so they can impress somebody now. God is not going to ask you how many people you won to Christ. He is going to ask you, "Why did you win people to Christ? What was the motive in your heart? Why did you do that? Did you do it

because you wanted to be seen? Did you do it because it was a program, or did you do it because you understood and you loved Me?"

People say, "I am going to read the Bible and study the Bible because I want to get rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ." Let me tell you something. I am just going to be honest with you. You would find a hard time to find somebody in the world that read the Bible more than I have. There was a time in my life when I read through the Bible every 30 days. Somebody says, "Man, I want to be like him." Somebody says, "Oh, that is great." I have shown him, and people get up and say, "Come and hear this man preach. This man reads through the Bible every 30 days. Tell us, brother, what did that do for you?" Maybe the biggest mess there was in my life. You mean reading the Bible can screw you up? You bet it can. If you read through the Bible every 30 days, you have to read 60 chapters a day. 60. I am saying 60, six zero, 60. I thought, "Whoa, I want to learn the Bible. I want to know everything about the Bible. I want to get the Bible down." I used to try everything in my life. I heard somebody say one time, "If you put a tape on when you go to sleep, you will automatically remember everything on the tape." How many ever heard that? You bought about the same book that I bought. I was young, and I wanted to learn the Bible, and I was stupid. I do not know how many nights I went to bed putting, I thought, "If I just, I am going to take this tape, this tape is Alexander Scourby reading the Bible. I can sleep eight hours. I will fix this thing up till I get eight hours, and I will know everything that is on that tape. I will get up in the morning and I will have it." Well, obviously it did not work. I had some of the weirdest nightmares I ever had in my life. I was single then. I was living by myself, with my dog. I never did get anything out of it. But my dog was the greatest Bible scholar the world has ever seen. I could not get it. He could quote. He was smart. I would say, "What is on the top of the house?" "Roof." He had it, man. I would say, "What is on the tree?" "Bark." He had it. He got some, did not help me any.

So then I got this idea, heard a guy say one time that he read through the Bible over 33 days, and I thought, "Well, that is for me. That is what I have to do. 60 chapters a day, 60 chapters a day, 60." Come on, man. You get up in the morning, and you are bleary-eyed, and you give God maybe a half a verse, or you really tell God, "This verse really means something to me. I am going to just read this verse today because it is short, okay, Lord." 60 chapters. Do you know what kind of pressure that puts on you to get through? Do you know what I wound up doing? I wound up judging my spirituality on whether I got my 60 chapters in a day or not. If I got my 60 chapters in, it was a good day. If I did not, it was a bad day. I wound up coming through that thing where I lost the perspective. What I did is I got to the point where I thought that my spirituality was based on how many times I went through the Bible. Then I learned a great lesson, and this lesson was worth the lesson going through what I had to learn. Do you know what I learned? I learned it was not how many times I went through the Bible, but rather how many times the Bible went through me. I realized it was not about 60 chapters a day. It was about, "Is the Word of God real in my heart?" It was not about, "I want to spend the rest of my life just reading the Bible 24 hours a day." It was, "That is what I want to do in my heart. I want to know the Bible." God said, "I am not asking you to jump through some mechanical hoop. I am just asking you to have in your heart what you want." When you do what needs to be done, He said at the Judgment Seat of Christ, "We will sort it all out." It will not be, "Bob, how many

times did you read through the Bible?" It will be simply, "Bob, why did you even read it? Why did you read it?" It will not be, "How many people did you bring to church?" It will be, "Why did you bring them?" It will not be, "How did you raise your kids?" It will be, "Why did you raise them the way that you did?" "Every man's work shall be made manifest." The Bible says, "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."

"If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." You see there that verse simply says that a guy can lose everything at the Judgment Seat of Christ. It goes up in fire. He builds, he lays the foundation. He builds upon it wood, hay, and stubble, and it all explodes and it is all gone. He loses everything and he loses reward. But the Bible says he is still saved, "yet so as by fire." Eternal security.

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness." He simply says this: the day you got saved, you laid a foundation in your life. That foundation is Christ, and the rest of your Christian life, you are going to build three things on that foundation. Three good, three bad. You are not going to build half good and half bad. I always thought that was interesting. You cannot go halfway with God. It is either gold, silver, precious stones, or wood, hay, or stubble. There is no mixture of the two. "Well, I got some gold. I got some hay." No, God does not work that way. We think that way. We think there are little sins and big sins. We think, "Well, we are kind of out of fellowship with God today, but I am not really in fellowship with God today. I am just kind of out." No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no kind of out. You are either in or you are out. There are no big sins. It is not, "Well, a big sin will separate you from God, but a little sin will not." No, all sin is sin in God's sight. That is the idea, understanding that we need to be holy. We need to do what is right. We need to learn the things that God loves, make those our things, hate the things that God hates, and stay away from them. When they get into our lives, we forsake them. When we say, "God, I am sorry. I did that. I thought that. I should not have said that. I should not have done that. I should not have thought that. Please, Father, forgive me." At that point, sin is resolved. Its confession is made. It is done. You did not get re-saved. You just got back into the fellowship. Sinner took place at the cross. Now you are a son. But at the Judgment Seat of Christ, it is not a mix-match deal. It is not, "Well, I got 50% hay, 50% gold, silver, precious stones." No, no, no, it is one or the other because it does not come down to what you do.

If it was what you did, if it was based on what you did, then you would get there and you would say, "Oh, that is not too bad. I got, let's see, 6,000 pounds of gold, 4,000 pounds of silver, and a whole bucket of precious stones. Then we got how many trucks is that of hay back there? We got hay. We got some stubble. We got some of this stuff over here. Oh, that is not too bad." It does not work that way. If it was things you did, it would work that way because the gold, it represents something. The silver, it represents something. The precious stones, it represents something. The

wood, hay, and stubble, it represents something. So if it was what you did, you get a little bit of all, and you can have kind of like a Christian smorgasbord mix and match, but it is not going to work that way. The Judgment Seat of Christ, it is either gold, silver, precious stones, or wood, hay, and stubble. Simple as that. There is no middle ground with a thing. As I said, if it was something that you did, if it works, then you can have a mix and match. But you see, you cannot. Wood, that is a dead tree. Hay, that is dead grass. Stubble, that is dead wheat. Dead things for dead Christians. You do not mix dead things and live things with God. God says you are either in fellowship with Me or you are out of fellowship with Me. You are not kind of out. You are not, "Well, I am just kind of not with the Lord today. I am just kind of, you know, having it." You are either in or you are out. "Why, I did not sin anything big." Sin is sin. "Well, I do not know." Sure, you know. "I do not care." Absolutely you care. When it comes to the Judgment Seat of Christ, I do not care about you and your wife going out there and doing that. That is temporal. That is fine. But when it comes to the Judgment Seat of Christ, understand this: it will be gold, silver, precious stones, or wood, hay, and stubble. It is not based on anything that you do. It is based on your attitude of heart, what you have got in your heart right now that you want to do for God. It does not take into consideration what you know or what you do not know. It is like I have heard in all my life. The Judgment Seat of Christ is not going to be about what you did know, what you did not know. It is going to be about what you could have found out but did not. That is attitude. He is going to sort it out. He is going to let the fire come down. When the fire hits the wood, it is gone. The hay, it is gone. The stubble, it is gone. But when it hits the gold and the silver, it just purifies it. It just purifies it.

VII. The Lost Perspective

I have taken, this is the second week, and we have got another week in it because next week I am going to talk to you about the gold, silver, precious stones. Now that we have laid the foundation and we understand the concept, now we are going to go in and define it. But I want to leave you with this. Here is where God's people are at.

1. The Judgment Seat of Christ is the most important doctrine anywhere in the Bible for the child of God. Absolutely. Because there is going to come a day where your millennial rewards are based on it.

The Bible simply says this. When you got saved, go back one step further. Sinner: at Calvary's cross, you and I were judged as the guilty sinner, lost without hope, without Christ. There came a time in your life when you saw your need to trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior. You put your faith and trust in Him. At that point, you become His Son. Sinner, Son. Right now on this planet, God deals with you as a Son. You do not do what is right. God will bring you to church. Somebody will preach. The Holy Spirit of God will tap you on the shoulder and say, "You need to get that right." You will say, "Nah, I do not need to get it right." Or you will say, "Yes, Lord, I need to get it right. I am sorry." You go through life every day just like that. When you confess it, He forgives you. It is clean. The slate is clean. You stay clean. You stay right. Because it is in here. But there is coming a day when you are going to stand before God that God is not going to judge you for all your sin at Calvary. Paid for at Calvary. God is not

going to judge you for your sins every day. Paid for as a son. But God is going to judge you from the aspect of your servant. A servant does what he does based on his attitude of heart. God is going to sort it out. He is going to manifest it. The day is going to declare it. God is going to lay that thing out, the Day of Jesus Christ. We will talk about that more next week, too. He is going to lay that thing out. It is going to be revealed what was the motive behind what you did. Not, "Did you read your Bible?" but "Why did you read your Bible?" Not, "Did you win people to Christ?" but "Why did you win them to Christ?" Not, "Did you do this?" but "Why did you do this?" The Bible says it is the terror of the Lord. We are going to talk about that next week, too.

I see this. One of the things that I worry about more than anything else with young Christians is growing up in the world of Christianity that we are in and not getting things defined the way that it should. I work harder on that than anything else. Because here is what has happened. God's people, just like me with the Bible, just like me in the little illustrations I gave you, how I did things, you are all doing for the wrong motive. You either learn from them or you turn from them, one or the other. I learned. I learned. I learned. I did this, and I said, "That is not going to work." It all came down to me to the attitude of heart. I saw some things, and I look at Christianity. Look at God's people. They have lost sight of some things. That is what we are going to talk about. The Bible says you build upon that foundation, gold, silver, precious stones. I am going to give you three things that go with that next week. You are going to jump in with both feet. We are going to find them.

Do you know what God's people lost sight of? God's people have lost sight as Christians. God's people have lost sight today of:

- The Cause. We do not even know why we are here today. We do not know why we do what we do. We read our Bible, but we do not even know why we read a Bible other than to learn some things. We have lost the cause. We go to church. Why? "Well, because we are supposed to." That is not an answer. We have lost sight of the cause.
- The Cost. I will tell you the second thing God's people lost sight of: they have lost sight of the cost. We do not understand today, and this is why Christianity today is so cheap for us. We have lost sight of the cost. We do not understand what it costs God to save us.
- The Consequences. God's people have lost sight of the consequences: the Judgment Seat of Christ. We do not know today that someday we are going to stand before God and give an account.

My job is not to beat you over the head. My goodness, I would never do that to you. We are in this together. The Bible says we are laborers together. It is not me up here as the fat pastor who overlooks the flock. It is me down here as one of you. It is me and you in this together. Laborers together with God, the Bible says. I am not going to beat you over the head over anything. I do not care what you do wrong. There will never be a time when I get up and just rail on you for something you did wrong. I am here to help you. The bottom line is you do not need to be clobbered with the Judgment Seat of Christ. What needs to be done is you need to have it defined for you. So when you leave here, you understand a little bit more about what it is going to be. The Bible says it is the terror of the Lord, but it does not have to be for you.

If it had to be something you had to do, if you had to give so much money, if you had to do so many things, if you had to talk to so many people to witness, if you had to go like you do at work and put in your spiritual time card on Monday and walk in there and you had a quota like 50 chapters a day, or "I have to witness to ten people today and I only got nine. I failed you, God." God says, "Get up for it. Kick you." Where do you ever get those kind of parameters you have to do? If it was that, it would be tough. I am glad it is not any of that way. I am glad it just has to be in here. I am glad I just have to love Him with all of my heart, with all of my mind, and all of my soul. I am going to teach you what that means next week, too. I am going to show you how to do that. "That has got to be the hardest thing in the world to do." No, it is the easiest thing in the world to do. I will show you some men in the Bible. That is a great example. You can study to do it.

I am telling you. We are laborers together, but you need to be a wise master builder, and the foundation you lay is Jesus Christ. The rest of your Christian life, I am going to show you next week how to build gold, silver, and precious stones, that you will never have to worry about the wood, the hay, or the stubble. It will not be a mix-match. It will be one or the other, but there will be no reason. There is no reason why any child of God cannot get to the Judgment Seat of Christ and get everything that God has for him. It is not hard. It is just not defined anymore. Because it is not defined, God's people get all caught up in everything else in this Christian world. They are busy doing this and they are doing that and they are doing this, and they lose sight of the cause. They lose sight of the cost, and they lose sight of the consequences. There is coming a day when we are going to stand before Him. God has His day. Christ has His day. God's day is for Israel. Christ's day is for us. My job as your pastor is to give you everything I can to help you stand there. Laborers together down here, stand together up there, all built around the Book.

Let us pray. Father, we thank You and praise You for Jesus. We love You so much. We thank You for our time today. We pray You will continue to bless us as we continue to study Your Word and come through, Father, and put all these things together. Lord, help us today. Help us to leave here today, Father, no matter where we are at in our building process. No matter where we are at in our program of being with You, Lord, we love You. We thank You, Father, for the opportunity to be with You today and to open up this Book. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.