

Basic Discipleship

A Course On New Testament Discipleship

Topic #8

22. It is interesting that he said the normal lifespan in his day was **70 years**, in that as he lived to be 120—Aaron lived to 123 & Joshua died at 110.
23. Their ages were a rare exception because by this time in human history, as the ages of people continued to drop after the Flood, the average age was **70**—given neither as a promise or a limit, but as a general estimate.
24. His stress is not on how long we live, but how short we live—years filled with “**trouble and tragedy**” in a fallen world—that “**quickly**” go by.
25. So, in light of who we are & who God is, notice what he prays to God:

12 So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.

26. When he says, “**teach us to number our days**” he is *asking for* “**wisdom**” knowing that this is something that must be learned & is not automatic.
27. Most people live *with little awareness* of really how short life is—and the younger one is—he tends to think that his days are without number.
28. We tend to prioritize what we think is important—and so people can count their money and count their goods and maybe even their years, but those years are made up of “**days**” that represent a lifetime.
29. We need to live with a sense of our mortality, so as to invest our lives.
30. When we make **Moses’** prayer our prayer and God answers this prayer, showing us how to “**number our days**” — then He will give us “**a heart of wisdom**” — which is not only for the mind — but for the heart too.

C. Recognizing life is short—we should live in _____ dependence on God.

1. James reminds us that because life is so temporal—that we must not _____ arrogantly but must live in humility if we are going to invest in eternity.
2. In James 4:13-16 he instructs us that because our life is like **a vapor**, we must _____ have an attitude of independence from God but of humility:

13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” 14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. 15 Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.” 16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

3. James pictures for us a self-centered person living his or her life, not in light of eternity — but only for — the here and ____.

13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.”

4. His illustration is of a 1st century shrewd businessman—who would have been considered ‘**a great success**’—however in the eyes of ____ he was ‘**a successful failure**’ because he made his plans without Him.
5. James underscores for us that this man had **the wrong attitude**, and that this businessman had _____ **the wrong assumption**.
6. His ‘**attitude**’ was wrong—in that he was self-sufficient—by living independently of God—never praying or never even consulting God in his travel plans to “**go to**” the next “**city**” on his ____.
7. He never prayed, “**Lord, where would You have me to go?**” — but to the contrary — he spread out his map — and he looked at the _____ of business and he thought — “**That’s the city where I am going!**”
8. But not only did he plan the city that he would go to—he also determined the period of time—for which he would _____.

13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year”

9. He took out his calendar and reasoned, “**This is what I am going to do next year**” without ever stopping—to ask what God thought about it, for he just assumed — that he had 365 days to use — as he saw ____.
10. His self-confidence is seen in that he not only determines the place he wanted to go—and the period of time that he wanted to stay, he even determined — his _____ with its calculated outcome.
11. He reasoned within himself—that he would “**engage in business**” which indicates that he was some kind of merchant—for the word “**business**” is the Greek word for our word ‘**emporium**’ for a center of _____.
12. And he also — very confidently predicted and boasted — that he would “**make a profit**” as sadly, it was ____ prayer that had him—but “**profit**.”

“Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.”

13. The person that James describes in his illustration—is not interested in eternal treasure but only in earthly profits that ___ had all mapped out.
14. We must not forget that in this context—James is addressing prayerless Christians and so—without judging them—we must take inventory of ourselves because—we can be guilty of doing—the very _____ thing.
15. It may not be—in the world of business—but it could be—in the world of family, or the world of marriage, or in the world of education, or _____.
16. Each of us might ask ourselves about the past week as to how much time, if any—we took communing with God and asking Him about our _____.
17. The plans of the man in James’ illustration, were not wrong in themselves, but the man’s problem was his ‘**wrong attitude**’ in that he did not consider his complete dependence on _____ (cf. Luke 12:18-20; John 15:5).
18. If we are to live with an eternal perspective — then we must plan our day with the Lord—which has a _____ of changing one’s perspective.
19. Sadly, many of us—live like this shrewd businessman—we are believers in Jesus Christ — but _____ are living — like ‘**practical atheists.**’
20. Please understand, again this passage is not—a prohibition against planning because the Bible is very clear that we should plan _____.
21. For instance, in Proverbs chapter _____, King Solomon wrote (6:6-8):

6 Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise,
 7 Which, having no chief, Officer or ruler, 8 Prepares her food
 in the summer And gathers her provision in the harvest.

22. This involves ‘**planning**’ — such that in a ‘**season of plenty**’ we should set aside for the future — for _____ here is a — ‘**season of need.**’
23. Likewise, planning is seen in Ephesians 5:16 as the Apostle Paul instructs _____ to, “**make the most of our time, because the days are evil.**”
24. Even the Lord Jesus in describing what a true disciple looks like, He asks us to count the _____ in following Him (Luke 14:28-30):

28 “For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? 29 “Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’”

25. Neither James nor Jesus nor wise Solomon would rebuke these merchants for their plans & for that matter would not condemn their desire to make a **profit**—which happens to be a good thing—when you are in business.
26. James is not rebuking them—for their “**occupation**” or even for their “**anticipation**” but for the “**secularization**” of their hearts & _____.
27. God is not down on planning or profits—just on leaving Him _____.
28. James is describing someone — who is not thinking — about God’s glory, and God’s will — and God’s plans — and God’s kingdom — from start to finish — there is not — a word about God — in their _____.
29. James underscores for us that this man had _____ only **the wrong attitude**, but in verse 14—that this businessman also made **the wrong assumption**.

14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

30. Two truths you can count on in this life about the future—one is that only God knows the future—and the other is that—we do not _____ the future.
31. Tomorrow’s circumstances are totally uncertain—you could go home from church today — and get a phone call — and in a moment’s time everything will change such that your life takes a _____ direction.
32. James reminds that we do not know what “**life will be like tomorrow**” and so—he would rebuke us in our pride when we underestimate our own limitations & make plans apart from our constant need for _____.

15 Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.” 16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

33. It is nothing but sheer “**arrogance**” (4:16) that makes us think that we can live and move and have our being independent of God—for such “**arrogance**” is the root of most _____ (Isaiah 14:12-15; Genesis 3:5-7).
34. There are a lot of the people in the cemetery this day—who are not here, not because they — ran out of plans — but because they ran out of _____.
35. This is the very truth that James & Moses & King David and the Spirit, who inspired each one to write these truths, wants _____ to be changed by.
35. If we live in light of eternity — then we must recognize life is very short, so that as fragile humans we set our _____ on God depending on Him.

II. We Need to Think & Live With an Eternal Outlook

There is coming a time when each and every Christian will meet Christ in heaven and “each one of us” (Romans 14:12) will have our lives evaluated. As we noted earlier in this lesson, the judgment believers encounter will not be a judgment to determine where we will spend eternity. The Bible is very _____ that God’s declaration concerning our guilt has already been settled (John 3:17–18). However, since God will evaluate how we invested our lives once saved, living with an eternal outlook is the wisest way to live. While God has given us “all things to enjoy” (1 Timothy 6:17), an eternal perspective keeps us from chasing material gratification and dreams that have no eternal value. As our minds are renewed through Scripture, only then are we able to live with an eternal perspective. When a believer lives with an eternal perspective, he is able to consciously redirect his thoughts toward that which is eternal. This perspective is what will keep us from wasting our years, pursuing the temporal that we cannot _____ with us when we die. This is the outlook we should want to develop as God commands us in Colossians to intentionally redirect our thoughts toward that which is eternal so that we might evaluate the _____ of decisions we make based on their eternal significance. Colossians 3:1–3 says, “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” We will learn in this section that we will be rewarded in Heaven based on our availability and our faithfulness to serve Christ in the fullness of the Spirit, according to His will, as revealed in His Word. How we serve _____ as redeemed Christians can determine our reward for all of eternity.

A. Believers will not face a judgment for sin.

1. When you think of God “**judging**” it is important to realize that there are actually a number of different _____ of judgments in Scripture.
2. However, in the broadest sense of the definition there are _____ kinds of judgments—the judgment of the lost & the judgment of the saved.
3. In a _____ sense, Jesus can speak of the unrighteous who “**will go away into eternal punishment**” & “**the righteous into eternal life**” (Mt. 25:46.)
4. In the same way when the Apostle Paul is preaching before Felix, _____ reminds him out of a heart of compassion that “**there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked**” (Acts 24:15).
5. The judgment that we want to explore this session is not to be confused with the ‘**Great White Throne Judgment**’ in which Christ will judge all the _____ from all of time for all of eternity (Revelation 20:11-15).

6. The Bible is clear that if someone is genuinely saved that they will ___ face a judgment for sin—for this reason Jesus could say in John 3:18:

18 “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

7. The Bible is clear that the person who believes in Jesus escapes condemnation while the person who does not believe in Jesus stands condemned already, with ___ way of escape (cf. 3:36).

8. God tells us that the basis for a person’s condemnation is someone’s failure to believe God graciously has provided him with the _____.

9. Jesus made it plain—that being a physical descendant of Abraham, as the Jews commonly believed (John 3:2-3 cf. 8:39), or in our day being a member of a religious organization can _____ no one.

10. Faith in Christ is ‘**the instrumental means**’ by which we obtain salvation, as Jesus explained how salvation through faith becomes _____ (3:14-15).

11. Concerning those who seemingly never had the opportunity to believe, because they never heard of Jesus Christ—is addressed at a later ___ in this course (*Are The Unevangelized Really Lost?* by Carl Broggi).

12. What is clear here is that—when one trusts Christ as Savior and as Lord, they ___ never be “**judged**” just as Jesus also made evident in John 5:24:

24 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

13. Jesus having just said that He gave life “**to whom He wishes**” (Jn. 5:21), now He describes the one who “**hears His Word and believes Him**” that is the Father “**who sent**” the Son into the _____ (cf. Jn. 3:17).

14. In John 5, He uses the healing of the paralytic to teach us about salvation, for just as His word had brought new life to the paralytic (5:8), even so our response to His word will _____ eternal life or eternal death.

15. Jesus is clear that His word is equal to the Father’s word, since the Son only says what the Father _____ Him to say as “**the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner**” (3:19).

16. The promise from the Father through the ____ is that without exception, **“he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”**
17. Therefore, whatever you decide to do—with the words of ____ that Jesus speaks will determine what God the Father will do with you.
18. Jesus is clear that hearing His **“word”** & belief in the Father **“who sent”** Him is absolutely essential to escape judgment for sin and to pass from the position of death and condemnation to the position of ____.
19. That the believer *will not be judged for his sin* is also taught in Romans _:

1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

20. This little three letter word **“now”** emphasizes the truth—that I do ____ have to & wait for some final judgment to find out whether or not I will be accepted by God, because salvation is based on Jesus’ finished work.
 21. The promise of Romans 8:1—is that, **“there is now no condemnation”** reminding us that we have a ____ standing with God—that can never change having permanently removed us from future **“condemnation.”**
 22. If salvation is based or kept by my performance then I could not know **“now”** but only in the ____ that, **“there is now no condemnation.”**
 23. We have already noted from John 3:18 that the judgment is not later, it is right now because God’s verdict is on ____ on whether or not you are, **in Christ Jesus** forgiven, or outside of Christ condemned.
 24. Because of our identification in Adam, because we sinned in and with Adam (Romans 5:12) and are conceived in sin (Psalm 51:5) and born with a bent to do wrong, we have already been tried & found ____.
 25. This is why John chapter 3, the great love chapter ____ by saying (3:36):
- 36 “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”**
26. If you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are ____ longer condemned.

B. Believers will face a judgment for ____.

1. While we will ____ face a judgment for sin our service will be judged.

2. Because of Christ's gracious work on the cross we will not face our sins, but we will have to give an account of our works and service for _____.
3. Sometimes Christians falsely conclude that since they have been saved from the penalty of sin that they will not have to give an account for the _____ they have prayed or witnessed or given or served or sacrificed.
4. It is true that we will *never be condemned* for our sins & that nothing can "separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:39), but this does not mean there is _____ evaluation for the believer in Heaven.
5. While there are many passages that deal with the believer's judgment, there are at least _____ central passages that are foundational.
6. Consider Paul's instructions to the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians ____:

9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

7. This was _____ "labor" (KJV) his "aim" (ESV) his "ambition" (NET) his "utmost" (CJB) his "goal" (NIV85)—whether "home or absent."
8. There is what the Bible calls "selfish ambition" (Philippians 2:3) that is both "self-centered" & "worldly" — but there is also a "holy ambition" and that was Paul's great "ambition"—only "to be pleasing" to _____.
9. He knew God can never bless a *man-pleasing* ministry that compromises the truth because—you have to compromise—in order to please _____.
10. Many of the believers & even pastors in the Apostles' day, just like many in our day, served to please men—but _____ ministered "to be pleasing" to Jesus alone, as he now shares one of the motivations we should have:

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.

11. Verse ten begins with the word "for" meaning 'here is the explanation as to why' we should live to please Christ because a day will come when we will stand at His "judgment seat" for a personal _____ evaluation.
12. He has already stated in verse eight—that "to be absent from the body" is "to be present with the Lord" — so when our service on earth is over, the opportunity "to be pleasing to Him" will _____ expired.

13. We know that this judgment is for Christians _____ for many reasons.
14. First, since the Apostle Paul is speaking of a “**judgment**” that he himself will face as seen by his use of the first-person plural pronoun (“**we**”), then we can _____ that this is a judgment “**for believers only.**”
15. Second, since he is in this context describing events—that according to verse 8 must take place when the believer is “**at home with the Lord,**” then we know that he is dealing only with _____ Christians in Heaven.
16. Unbelievers are never judged in Heaven, for their final judgment is _____ the destruction of the present earth and right before God creates “**a new heaven and a new earth**” filled with righteousness (Revelation 20:11-15).
17. Third, the context of this verse also indicates—that Paul could only be describing a believer—since only a Christian could have a “**house not made with hands eternal in the heavens**” as just stated in verse _____.
18. Fourth, as brought out in verse five, only a believer could experience the indwelling _____ of God “**who gave us the Spirit as a pledge.**”
19. And fifth, “**the judgment seat of Christ**” is a very different place from the “**great white throne**” John sees for all the _____ (Revelation 20:11).
20. Sometimes you will hear pastors & theologians describe the place where Christians stand in Heaven as “**the bema**” because the Greek _____ **bema** is translated in English with the words “**judgment seat**” (5:10).
21. We are told in Matthew 27:19 — that Pontius Pilate was sitting on “**the judgment seat**” (**the bema**) when he reviewed Christ’s _____.
22. Likewise, in Acts 18:12 in Corinth the Apostle Paul stood at **the bema.**

12 But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat (the same identical word *bema*).

23. In the 1st century a “**bema**” was also a platform—in Greek towns where “**orations**” were made or “**decisions**” were handed _____.
24. These platforms have also been unearthed by archeologists in places where an “**athletic completion**” was held—so a judge could see and evaluate the athletes in order to reward the coveted laurel _____.

25. If two athletes competed against one another, one would receive the prize on his head—while the other—who failed to win the race, he was not punished — he simply did not receive the _____.
26. As we will see — what is in view — at Jesus’ “**judgment seat**” is not a time of punishment, for that has been satisfied, but a time of _____.
27. This is not a “**tribunal**” to see whether you are “**saved**” or “**lost**” and then put into Heaven or Hell—but rather this is a place that will evaluate how well you have lived your Christian _____.
28. “**The judgment seat of Christ**” was a real issue in the Apostle Paul’s life and in his thinking because — in the very next verse he begins, “**Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord**” (2 Corinthians 5:11).
29. He did not want to *face the possibility* that his life will be revealed as one “**wasted**” and “**spent in selfishness**” rather than in obedience to _____.
30. And so, while every believer may not be as ambitious for the Lord as Paul, every believer like him is going “**to appear**” before _____.
31. This is clear from the 1st person plural pronoun “**we**” found in verse 10, and this _____ is echoed in many other passages like Romans 14:12:

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

32. One day, you and I are going to have to face **Jesus Christ** as a believer, and Christ at this judgment will basically say, “**This was your _____.**”

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.

33. The Greek verb in 2 Corinthians 5:10 for “**appear**” literally means “**to be revealed**” & so His “**judgment seat**” is a _____ of revelation.
34. As we live and work here on Earth, sometimes it is relatively easy to hide things and to pretend, however someday, the true character of our works will be exposed before the searching _____ of the Savior.
35. God is speaking here about the **deeds done** in your **body** or life from the time you received Christ as your Savior — until the day the Lord takes you home to be with Him—when He will review & reveal your _____.

36. Jesus will _____ the character of our “deeds” done as born-again believers as “good or bad” meaning “good or worthless” (CSB).
37. One of the more detailed explanations of “the judgment seat of Christ” is found in 1 Corinthians 3 — where the Apostle Paul compares our service to the Lord Jesus to that of the construction of a _____.
38. As the Apostle Paul addresses pastors, but by application every believer, he instructs us that we must be careful how we serve because Christ’s church is like a building—and each of our _____ are like a building.
39. Wanting us to be _____ in the building process he begins in verse 10:
- 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.**
40. Paul established the church in Corinth — during his second missionary journey (Acts 18:1-18)—and since he first brought them the gospel of God it can be said that he “laid a foundation” in planting the _____.
41. The “foundation” was laid through the proclamation of God’s Word as he told them about Jesus—when he came to Corinth he was determined to preach only ‘Christ and Him crucified’ (2:2) & so people were _____.
42. Many evangelical churches are gaining members without conversions, _____ changing the message and so they have changed the “foundation.”
43. Yet, the “foundation” is the most important part of the building because it determines the size and the strength that any building will _____.
44. In my decades of ministry — I have seen “churches” try to build on a great orator, or a style of music, or a special method of entertainment, but churches that are not built on God’s Word do have lasting _____.
44. In the early chapters, Paul has been contrasting “God’s wisdom” (2:7), which the world _____ as “foolishness” (2:21, 25)—with “the wisdom of this world (which) is foolishness before God” (1 Corinthians 3:19).
45. Like many churches today, the Corinthians were trying to build their church by man’s wisdom, by “the wisdom of this world”—when they should have been building with God’s wisdom as found in the _____.
46. Someone’s life and ministry may seem to be successful for a time, but if it is _____ founded on Christ, it will eventually collapse & disappear.