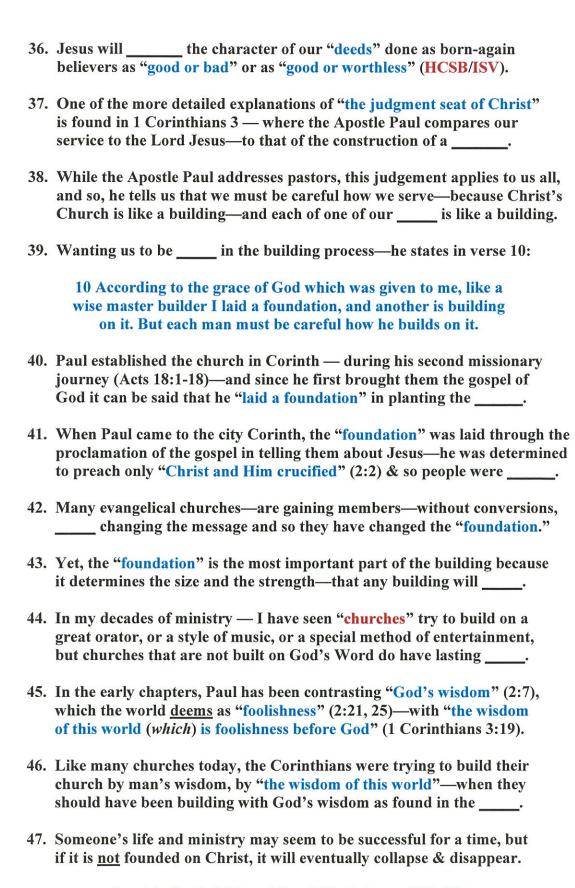
## Basic Discipleship

## A Course On New Testament Discipleship

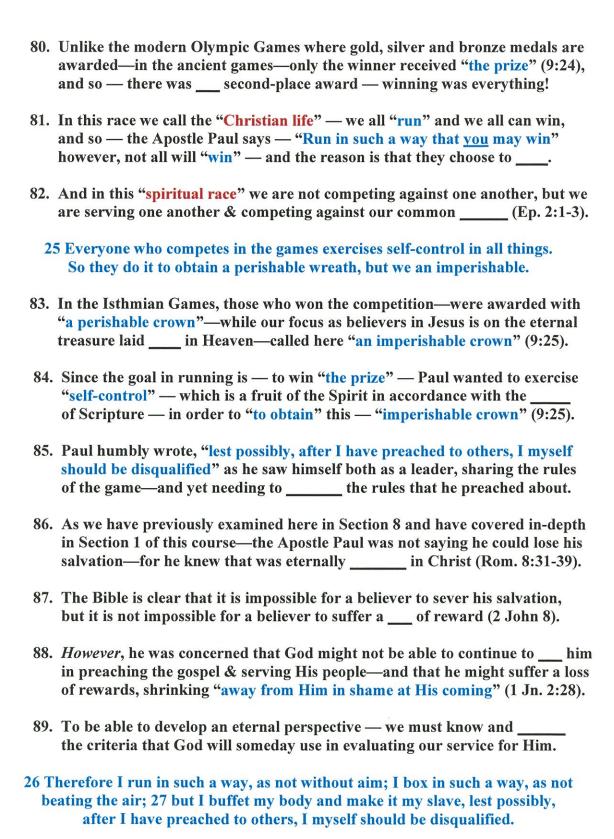
Topic #8

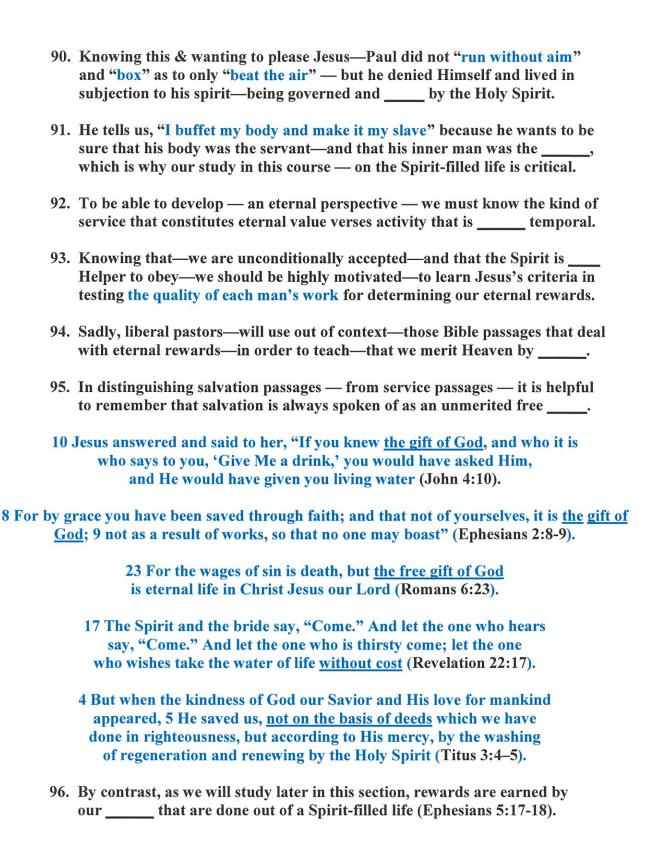


48.	Now I recognize that this chapter is dealing primarily with pastors in the in local church and the kind of building materials they are
49.	Paul makes it very clear in this context—that the Church does not belong to a pastor or to a congregation—but that it is (3:9 cf. Acts 20:28).
50.	So, while pastors are in view—the timeless principals apply to all believers, because only will pastors have to give "an account" (Hebrews 13:7), but every single believer will be evaluated (Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10).
51.	Romans 14, addresses Christians at with one another as some flaunted their use of true freedoms in Christ, while others who were unduly strict and harsh condemned their freedoms & so Paul reminds them in Romans 14:12:
	"So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God"
52.	The strict Christian found it easy to judge his brother—writing him off as an unspiritual meat-eating-compromiser, while the free Christian found it easy to contempt regarding his brother's uptight-legalistic attitude.
53.	Basically, the Apostle Paul's answer is "Stop worrying about your brother because we have enough to answer for before Jesus."
54.	The reality is that — "each one of us will give an account of himself to God" so, we should let deal with our brother as Paul reminds us in verse 11:
	11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw
55.	A Christian's life & service to the Lord Jesus is likened here to constructing a building with either quality materials or those that are substandard.
56.	When a Christian begins to participate in the building of God's local church, some may use — "gold, silver and precious stones" — representing the kind of materials that could be used to help build a magnificent
57.	While other believers might use — "wood, hay and stubble" — the kind of materials that are, temporary, combustible & substandard products.
58.	He paints a stark contrast between these two kinds of building materials that God's future evaluation will reveal—when God the quality of our work

13 each mai	n's work will become evident; 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.
	"Gold, silver, and precious stones" picture something permanent—whereas "wood, hay, and straw" something temporary—yet he warns that our service for Christ will be tested "with fire" to examine the "quality" of our
60.	All of us—who have met Jesus in salvation—have built on Christ—but some believers use — "good" — materials while others use — "bad" — materials, and the kind of material we use will decide the kind of reward we will
	God is concerned—that we build with "quality" and "the day" is coming when Jesus Christ will reward us for "the quality" of our service, and simply for — "the quantity" — of our service.
	God is concerned not just with—what size "building" we build, but what "quality" or "what sort" (ESV/KJV) or "what kind" (NET/YLT) of service—we have to the Lord Jesus.
	This parallels what the Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:10—when he tells us that all <u>true</u> Christians in Heaven — will be "recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."
	When God will evaluate our service—to determine if they are good or, interestingly the word "bad" (phaulos) is not the usual Greek adjective for "bad" (kakos or poneros) — which would define — 'moral or ethical evil.'
	This adjective translated "bad" typically carries the idea of something that is 'worthless' like the wood, hay & straw mentioned in 1 Corinthians 3:12, where Paul in that parallel passage—examines this judgment.
	This "judgment" will determine what "works" are 'acceptable & pleasing' to God — and what "works" are "worthless" — and of no eternal
	Contrary to what my Roman Catholic friends teach—these passages are not a biblical basis for Purgatory — because it is the believer's "works" and the believer himself — who will be subjected — to the flames.
	The purpose of "the bema" or 'the judgment of the just' is not to punish the believer for his sins—but to reward him for those "works" done Jesus.
	Many believers in Jesus—have never really thought about the implications, that someday He is going to evaluate our service in the local church that should be serving in, and that He will "test the quality of each man's work."

70.	One of the most sobering thoughts that I can share with a believer is that in the future "each one of us" will be judged—for our to Christ.
71.	Sadly, many Christians think that since they are saved—and that there is "now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"—that they will not have to give—any kind of an account—for the way that they
72.	They have falsely concluded—that since God is going to take—all His people to Heaven—that each one of us will equally share—the blessings.
73.	But as we will study in this section, God will ask of us to give an account for the way that we have prayed & worshipped & witnessed & given & served with our gifts & the way in which we have sacrificed for His kingdom & glory.
74.	Unfortunately — today Christians as a whole — have seriously neglected or have willfully diluted—the whole truth—of our examination.
75.	So, on the one hand it is critical—that we all understand—when speaking of this judgment that we are not talking about—some 'Evangelical Purgatory' because we will never be condemned for sins Jesus as our substitute.
76.	Because there is "no condemnation" and that nothing can "separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:1, 39) — we will stand before God without of rejection—if we have trusted Christ as Lord.
77.	At the same time, God is interested in "quality" & accountability without ever dismissing 'quantity' — but clearly — 'quantity' means nothing if "the quality" is lacking—which is why wrote in 2 Timothy 2:5:
	5 And also if anyone competes he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.
78.	Just as athletes in Paul's day had to play "according to the rules"—even so in God's Christian "race" we must follow the rules too — and so we must the Rule Book—the Bible in order to know what constitutes eternal treasure.
79.	There are several pictures used in God's Word—to illustrate the principles of evaluation at "the judgment of the just" — about the "kind" of service we, especially that of an athletic contest—as explained in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27:
	24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.





42 "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward" (Matthew 10:42).
17 "And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because <u>you have been faithful</u> in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities' (Luke 19:17).
97. In addition, salvation is always spoken of as a possession.
36 "He who believes in the Son <u>has</u> eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36).
47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life (John 6:47).
98. By contrast, rewards are habitually described as a attainment.
14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward (1 Corinthians 3:14).
25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable (1 Corinthians 9:25).
7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up 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 loved His appearing (2 Timothy 4:7–8).
99. As we work through this topic of rewards, with Jesus commanding us to lay up "treasure in heaven" — it is critical that we know — that the and motivation for this & all His commands, is still God's unconditional love.
100. It has often been said — that God is not looking for people of "great ability" but people of "great availability" — and so when we are available to obey, the Spirit empowers us — and we are rewarded — in eternity
101. God wants — His people to know — that our "toil is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor 15:58) and that we will what has been sown in life (Gal 6:7-8).
102. Rewards a display of God's justice as we just read, "God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints" (Hebrews 6:10).
103. And so, can go on to encourage the Galatians, "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary" (Gal 6:9).