

# ***Basic Discipleship***

## ***A Course On New Testament Discipleship***

### ***Topic #8***

36. Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_ the character of our “**deeds**” done as born-again believers as “**good or bad**” or as “**good or worthless**” (HCSB/ISV).
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. While the Apostle Paul addresses pastors, this judgement applies to us all, and so, he tells us that we must be careful how we serve—because Christ’s Church is like a building—and each of one of our \_\_\_\_\_ is like a building.
39. Wanting us to be \_\_\_\_\_ in the building process—he states 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. When Paul came to the city Corinth, the “**foundation**” was laid through the proclamation of the gospel in telling them about Jesus—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 \_\_\_\_\_.
45. In the early chapters, Paul has been contrasting “**God’s wisdom**” (2:7), which the world deems as “**foolishness**” (2:21, 25)—with “**the wisdom of this world (which) is foolishness before God**” (1 Corinthians 3:19).
46. 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 \_\_\_\_\_.
47. Someone’s life and ministry may seem to be successful for a time, but if it is not founded on Christ, it will eventually collapse & disappear.

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 man'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.**

59. **“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 \_\_\_\_.
61. 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.
62. 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.
63. This parallels what the Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:10—when he tells us that all true Christians in Heaven — will be **“recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”**
64. 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.’**
65. 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.
66. This **“judgment”** will determine what **“works”** are **‘acceptable & pleasing’** to God — and what **“works”** are **“worthless”** — and of no eternal \_\_\_\_.
67. 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.
68. 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.
69. 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.**



80. Unlike the modern Olympic Games where gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded—in the ancient games—only the winner received “**the prize**” (9:24), and so — there was \_\_\_ second-place award — winning was everything!
81. In this race we call the “**Christian life**” — we all “**run**” and we all can win, and so — the Apostle Paul says — “**Run in such a way that you may win**” however, not all will “**win**” — and the reason is that they choose to \_\_\_.
82. And in this “**spiritual race**” we are not competing against one another, but we are serving one another & competing against our common \_\_\_\_\_ (Ep. 2:1-3).

**25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. So they do it to obtain a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.**

83. In the Isthmian Games, those who won the competition—were awarded with “**a perishable crown**”—while our focus as believers in Jesus is on the eternal treasure laid \_\_\_ in Heaven—called here “**an imperishable crown**” (9:25).
84. Since the goal in running is — to win “**the prize**” — Paul wanted to exercise “**self-control**” — which is a fruit of the Spirit in accordance with the \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture — in order to “**to obtain**” this — “**imperishable crown**” (9:25).
85. Paul humbly wrote, “**lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified**” as he saw himself both as a leader, sharing the rules of the game—and yet needing to \_\_\_\_\_ the rules that he preached about.
86. As we have previously examined here in Section 8 and have covered in-depth in Section 1 of this course—the Apostle Paul was not saying he could lose his salvation—for he knew that was eternally \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (Rom. 8:31-39).
87. The Bible is clear that it is impossible for a believer to sever his salvation, but it is not impossible for a believer to suffer a \_\_\_ of reward (2 John 8).
88. *However*, he was concerned that God might not be able to continue to \_\_\_ him in preaching the gospel & serving His people—and that he might suffer a loss of rewards, shrinking “**away from Him in shame at His coming**” (1 Jn. 2:28).
89. To be able to develop an eternal perspective — we must know and \_\_\_\_\_ the criteria that God will someday use in evaluating our service for Him.

**26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.**

90. Knowing this & wanting to please Jesus—Paul did not “**run without aim**” and “**box**” as to only “**beat the air**” — but he denied Himself and lived in subjection to his spirit—being governed and \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit.
91. He tells us, “**I buffet my body and make it my slave**” because he wants to be sure that his body was the servant—and that his inner man was the \_\_\_\_\_, which is why our study in this course — on the Spirit-filled life is critical.
92. To be able to develop — an eternal perspective — we must know the kind of service that constitutes eternal value verses activity that is \_\_\_\_\_ temporal.
93. Knowing that—we are unconditionally accepted—and that the Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_ Helper to obey—we should be highly motivated—to learn Jesus’s criteria in testing **the quality of each man’s work** for determining our eternal rewards.
94. Sadly, liberal pastors—will use out of context—those Bible passages that deal with eternal rewards—in order to teach—that we merit Heaven by \_\_\_\_\_.
95. In distinguishing salvation passages — from service passages — it is helpful to remember that salvation is always spoken of as an unmerited free \_\_\_\_\_.

**10 Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water (John 4:10).**

**8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).**

**23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).**

**17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost (Revelation 22:17).**

**4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:4–5).**

96. By contrast, as we will study later in this section, rewards are earned by our \_\_\_\_\_ that are done out of a Spirit-filled life (Ephesians 5:17-18).



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 you have been faithful 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 has 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).