

Basic Discipleship

A Course On New Testament Discipleship

Topic #8

B. God will evaluate what we attempted to do for Him.

*In this section we are learning what the Bible teaches about investing in eternity by living with an eternal outlook. Remember, that there are _____ kinds of judgments that we face as true Christians. If we have truly met Christ “**in the past**” then we have been judged as sinners. “**In the present**” we are being judged as _____ and in “**in the future**” we will be judged as servants. Just as the ‘**Great White Throne Judgment**’ is only for the _____, even so “**the judgment seat of Christ**” is only for the _____. While it may be difficult to know precisely what makes up a “**golden**” work verses a “**straw**” work — Scripture does inform us of certain general areas in which _____ is particularly interested. As we have just seen in the prior section, God will someday evaluate **what we do for Him**. While not a complete list—we focused on _____ areas—that are highlighted in the New Testament concerning those things that God has called us all to do. These four areas of obedience, which comprise a large portion of our time on earth, will be taken into consideration when we _____ the Lord Jesus Christ in Heaven. We have been learning that God will reward believers for how they _____ people, both those people who are saved & those people who are lost. God will reward believers for how they _____ their work, whether it be a mother in her home, or a father out in the community. God will also reward believers for how they use their spiritual gifts, and finally God will reward believers for how they use their money. And so, when Christ evaluates us to determine “**the quality of each man’s work**” (1 Corinthians 3:13), He will look at “**what you did**” for Him, but He will also examine “**what you attempted to do**” for Him.*

1. One such example is seen when King Solomon dedicated the second temple as can be read in 1 Kings chapter 8—Solomon humbly & wisely gave his father David the _____ due him for purposing in his heart to build the temple.

12 Then Solomon said, “The LORD has said that He would dwell in the thick cloud. 13 “I have surely built You a lofty house, A place for Your dwelling forever.” 14 Then the king faced about and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing. 15 He said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David and has fulfilled it with His hand, saying, 16 ‘Since the day that I brought My people Israel from Egypt, I did not choose a city out of all the tribes of Israel in which to build a house that My name might be there, but I chose David to be over My people Israel.’ 17 “Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. 18 “But the LORD said to my father David, ‘Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart. 19 ‘Nevertheless you shall not build the house, but your son who will be born to you, he will build the house for My name.’ 20 “Now the LORD has fulfilled His word which He spoke; for I have risen in place of my father David and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel (1 Kings 8:15–20).

2. On the one hand, Solomon recognized that the temple was the fulfillment of God’s plan (8:16), more so than David’s or Solomon’s desire & commitment to build ____.

3. On the other hand, he understood that he was just a human instrument, as he was given the plan from his father David who had it in **heart to build a house** for ____.
4. God said of David **“you did well that it was in your heart”** for God sees not simply what we have done — but He also sees — what we have attempted to do for ____.
5. The famous missionaries Jim Elliot and Nate Saint along with their three friends, had spent ____ - in preparation — to carry the gospel to — the Auca Indians.
6. After Bible College, they then spent another five years learning the necessary ____ for creating a written language—for people that had no written language—not to mention learning how to adjust to jungle living in order to reach pagan savages.
7. After all that preparation—when the door seemingly opened to carry the gospel to the Auca, there on the beach in August of 1956, they were __ brutally slaughtered.
8. At **“the judgment seat of Christ”** the Lord Jesus will not say, **“No reward for you, in that you _____ to take reach the Auca Indians—but you were not successful.”**
9. Just as it was in David’s **heart** to build God’s temple, even so it was in the hearts of those five brutally slaughtered missionaries — to reach those natives for ____.
10. Eternity will show all that they accomplished—having paved the way for those who followed—who were ____ to plant an indigenous church—with the Aucas.
11. One of the most important tasks that God has entrusted to us is to reach others for Christ—and when it is **“in your heart”** (1 Kings 8:18) to do so—only eternity will show all the ways — God may _____ you — to bring someone to salvation.
12. Jesus used His encounter with a woman at the well in Samaria in order to instruct His disciples about the many different people God uses to bring a person to ____.

35 “Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. 36 “Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 “For in this case the saying is true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ 38 “I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor” (John 4:35–38).

13. John 4:38 indicates that others had “labored” beforehand & prepared the ____ for the harvest Jesus’ disciples witnessed that day, *starting* with the Samaritan women.
14. When we see someone come to Christ, we must never forget as **“reapers”** that the **“harvest”** we enjoy—is very often the fruit—of another’s ____.

15. One day when King David was reflecting on the fact that he lived in a house of cedar, while “**the ark of God**” — where God came to dwell remained in a _____, he expressed his desire to build “**a house**” for God to Nathan the prophet:

1 Now it came about when the king lived in his house, and the LORD had given him rest on every side from all his enemies, **2** that the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within tent curtains.” **3** Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your mind, for the LORD is with you.” **4** But in the same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying, **5** “Go and say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Are you the one who should build Me a house to dwell in? (2 Samuel 7:1–5)

16. While David wanted to build “**a house**” for God, he was instructed that it would _____ God who would “**build a house**” for David (1 Chronicles 17:10)—a lasting dynasty because through David’s family would come the Messiah, God’s Son (2 Sam 7:13).
17. While it was in David’s “**heart**” to “**build a house**” for God — in 1 Chronicles 22:8, the human author of the Book of Chronicles helps us to understand God’s decision _____ to allow David to build the temple—but for Solomon to execute the plan:

7 David said to Solomon, “My son, I had intended to build a house to the name of the LORD my God. **8** “But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘You have shed much blood and have waged great wars; you shall not build a house to My name, because you have shed so much blood on the earth before Me. **9** ‘Behold, a son will be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side; for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days (1 Chronicles 22:7–9).

18. While David knew he could not build the temple of the Lord, he was still allowed to gather much of the materials—needed in preparation—for his _____ Solomon:

2 So David gave orders to gather the foreigners who were in the land of Israel, and he set stonecutters to hew out stones to build the house of God. **3** David prepared large quantities of iron to make the nails for the doors of the gates and for the clamps, and more bronze than could be weighed; **4** and timbers of cedar logs beyond number, for the Sidonians and Tyrians brought large quantities of cedar timber to David. **5** David said, “My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the LORD shall be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all lands. Therefore now I will make preparation for it.” So David made ample preparations before his death (1 Chron. 22:1–5).

19. What is clear in the Davidic Covenant found in 2 Samuel 7—is that while David only attempted—to prepare a “**house**” for God—the Lord still rewarded _____.
20. Today, God is constructing “**a spiritual house**” known as the Church, such that the Apostle Peter can say of those who have been born again and _____ saints:

4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:4-5).

21. The wonder of it all—is that God has given us the privilege of working with Him, in the building of His “**spiritual house**” — even as we faithfully attempt to carry the gospel to the _____ so that they can be saved—and so Jesus—reminds us all:

37 “For in this case the saying is true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’

38 “I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor” (John 4:35–38).

22. In this case, we do not know who these faithful workers were because we are not told—perhaps they had heard John the Baptist preach since he had ministered not too far away in Aenon (John 3:23) — about _____ miles — from Shechem.

23. If that were the case—then John the Baptist—prepared the soil and planted the seed—and Jesus and His disciples _____ the harvest.

24. Maybe others who heard John the Baptist preach, in turn carried his message to the Samaritans—God knows who they were—and He will reward _____.

25. So often—the one who brings a lost person—to the point of decision, the reaper, the pastor, the evangelist — gets the honor down here, but there will be no such distinction at Christ’s **judgment** _____.

26. Many times, some unknown Christians plough the ground, plant the seed, and then they water it with their prayers & their tears—yet never _____ the harvest.

27. But all such distinctions—will be set aside at “**the judgment seat of Christ**” because our all-knowing Father knows the spiritual history of each _____.

28. And as the narrative that follows indicates—even the woman herself as a _____ believer, planted some of the seed—through her witness to the townspeople:

39 From that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all the things that I have done.” 40 So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 Many more believed because of His word; 42 and they were saying to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.” (John 4:39–42)

29. Jesus is teaching us an invaluable lesson — since seed in the _____ has been planted—seed in the present—can be expected to be harvested.
30. He wanted His apostles to know, and those of us reading this, that as we plant we should never be discouraged as if nothing is happening—because God is at _____ and God has promised there are people “**white for harvest**” (Jn. 4:35).
31. And so, while five missionaries desired to carry the gospel to the Auca—they were unsuccessful in the sense they died before the first convert _____ to the Lord.
32. But their attempt—will be rewarded in Heaven—at “**the judgment seat of Christ**” (2 Cor. 5:5)—even if those who came behind—had not been successful—because the Lord will reward us, not just for what we do—but what we attempted to ____.
33. Years ago, when the average American Christian took seriously their privilege and responsibility to share the gospel, many hymns were written to encourage believers to _____ lives of purpose and devotion to God—like this one by Charles Luther:

**Must I go, and empty handed, Thus my dear Redeemer meet?
Not one day of service give Him, Lay no trophy at His feet?**

**Not at death I shrink nor falter, For my Saviour saves me now;
But to meet Him empty handed, Tho't of that now clouds my brow.**

**Oh, the years of sinning wasted, Could I but recall them now,
I would give them to my Saviour, To His will I'd gladly bow.**

**O ye saints, arouse, be earnest, Up and work while yet 'tis day;
Ere the night of death o'er take thee, Strive for souls while still you may.**

**Must I go, and empty handed? Must I meet my Savior so?
Not one soul with which to greet Him, Must I empty handed go?**

35. Maybe you have been a believer for years and you *have never led* someone to Jesus, but worse than that, would be not to even have the desire “**in your heart**” to __ so.
36. When Jesus Christ evaluates your life in Heaven — He is _____ going to say to you, “**Shame on you — because you did not win — anyone to Me**” — but I do believe He will say to some of us, “**Shame on you, it was not even in your heart to do so.**”

**10 For 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).**

C. God will evaluate our motive for those things we did for Him.

God does not tell us everything about “*the judgment seat of Christ*” — but as we have seen, we do _____ that God will evaluate *what we did for Him* — and — *what we attempted to do for Him*. But beyond *what we did* & *what we attempted to do*—God will also examine _____ *we did it*.

1. 1 Corinthians chapters 3&4 constitutes one of the central passages teaching us that each and every believer—will have his _____ reviewed and rewarded.
2. In this section of Scripture, the Apostle Paul reminds us that God will examine “**the motivation**” behind all that we do—in serving Christ—and His _____.
3. In the broader context—the Apostle Paul has been addressing—the difference between “**the natural realm**” and “**the supernatural realm**” — as he contrasts the “**carnal**” believer with the “**Spirit filled**” believer who _____ with Jesus.
4. He demonstrates the distinction between the person who walks in the power of the Holy Spirit—and the person who simply serves—out of his _____ strength.
5. He reveals the difference between the person who is serving Christ for selfish reasons & the believer who _____ Christ out of gratitude for His salvation.
6. Sadly, there are believers — who have been saved by grace — but they have not “**grown in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior**” (1 Pt. 3:18) and so they have not learned how to depend & serve in the Spirit’s power _____ day.
7. And the tendency — for any Christian who does not depend — on the Holy Spirit for their service is to be “**self-congratulatory**” — instead of _____ Christ exalting.
8. However, once one begins to “**grow in grace**” through the Word (1 Peter 2:2) & learns to depend on the Spirit for strength (John 15:5) — then they can _____ with 1 Corinthians 4:7 that says, “**What do you have that you did not receive?**”
9. This mindset produces a pure motivation of wanting to give God all the credit and all the glory — which is one of the reasons God will judge our _____ someday.
10. There those are who—do work for the kingdom—but their work is _____ accepted.
11. They give—but God is not pleased with their giving—they sing—but God does not hear their singing—they pray—but their prayers are not answered—because while they may _____ they are doing it for the Lord, they are really doing it for themselves.
12. God is _____ when He states—“**I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another**” (Is. 42:8) — such that if do something in your strength and Jesus rewarded you for in Heaven, then He would be giving His “**glory**” to your idolatry.

13. This was the problem with the Corinthians who followed _____ instead of the Lord:

**4 For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not mere men?
5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as
the Lord gave opportunity to each one. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was
causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters
is anything, but God who causes the growth (1 Corinthians 3:4–7).**

14. God is underscoring that “**Paul**” and “**Apollos**” are “**mere men**” in that they are not the ones the Corinthians believed in for salvation—they _____ brought Jesus to them.

15. They were “**servants through whom (they) believed**” — not on *whom* they believed, and so there was no _____ to quarrel over which of these two ‘**nobodies**’ was greatest.

16. Paul could testify that—“**I planted**” while “**Apollos watered**”—because in Christ’s church different members—have different jobs and they see different results, but perspective _____ be maintained because it is “**God who causes the growth**” (3:7).

17. A farmer understands that he may plant a seed and then water it, but he knows he does not make it grow—all _____ can do is provide the right environment for growth, while trusting in the miracle of life—even so of us—as we minister Jesus to others.

18. As we “**grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord**” we understand the miracle of serving Christ — knowing that we are not “**anything**” and that _____ is everything.

19. If our motivation is not to glorify God—then the Lord is not pleased because we are using “**wood, hay, and straw**” as building materials—for which _____ reward is given.

20. The Apostle Paul _____ a very profound statement— in 1 Corinthians 9:16:

16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.

21. The Apostle Paul was a “**God-called**” preacher—and so in this verse _____ is in essence saying, “**I cannot get out of it because God put me in the ministry!**”

22. But then he reminds us in the very next verse—that “**the unwilling servant**” does not get “**a reward**” because once again—God looks at _____ we do—what we do.

**17 For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will,
I have been entrusted with a commission nonetheless.**

23. Those singing in the choir, those ushering, those teaching children or adults, or serving in VBS or in the parking lot—we must _____ examine our motives.

24. Do I give 10% of my income to God's local church simply out of duty or with _____, and is my motive for praying or fasting to "**be noticed by men**" (Matt. 6:2,5,16)?
25. _____ says that He "**loves a cheerful giver**" (2 Corinthians 9:7)—and so Jesus spoke of those who "**sound a trumpet**" in giving and of those who prayed "**on the street**" and of those — who fasted to — "**be noticed by men**" (Matthew 6:2,5,16).
26. Because of wrong motive He could said, "**Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full**" (6:2c, 15c, 16c)—because _____ the reward they will get will be man's praise.
27. Certainly—you will _____ some Christians say, "**All that is important, is the doing of the deed — and HOW I do it — is much less important — than the doing of it.**"
28. While it may be true—that in some cases it would be better to do the right thing in the wrong _____ or out of the wrong motive than to do the wrong thing all together.
29. Jesus still taught that He _____ look at "**what we do**" and that beyond "**what we do**" and even "**what we attempted to do**" — He will also examine "**why did we do it?**"
30. For this reason—when the Apostle Paul comes to the _____ of his instruction on "**the judgment seat of Christ**" — he will say in — chapter four and verse five:

5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

31. In the end, "**each man's praise will come to him from God**" which is one reason why Paul feels free—to disregard the harsh judgment of the Corinthian towards himself, knowing there was coming a day—when our praise will come from God & not _____.
32. Paul is clear that God is looking at motive — '**why we did what we did**' — such that when Jesus judges us in heaven, it will be according to '**the motives of men's hearts**' and not simply—the _____ action—done by the individual believer.
33. We are not to be guilty of "**passing judgment**" because only God can read _____.
34. We must make judgments — from time to time — and so Jesus commanded us to "**judge with righteous judgment**" (John 7:24) in terms of—judging the doctrine, and not the motive—for only God—can _____ the heart and discern the motives.
35. Yet, at the same time Jesus said, "**Do not judge so that you be not judged**" (Mt. 7:1), reminding us that as His followers—we are not to be hypocritical in our judgments by pointing out the faults of others, while ignoring our _____ faults & shortcomings.
36. God will judge what we did, what we tried to do & what our _____ was in doing it.