



REWARDS DAY

(re)Imagine Heaven | 5.3.26

Libin Abraham

(The following text is automatically generated and has not been edited)

Libin Abraham 0:00

It is that time of the year where our calendars are filling up fast, with graduations, award ceremonies, recitals, final games, you name it, it's filling up fast. And sometimes we can feel like we're trying to be in multiple places at the same time, because we do not want to miss out on these milestone days. And for seeing your students in the room. You've worked hard for the last 12 years, maybe through setback, but yet you have endured. You've kept your eyes on that moment where you walk across the stage, you hear your name being called, and you receive a diploma, a recognition, perhaps even an award, for your faithfulness and consistency through the last 12 years that we celebrate that I think for all of us in this room, it matters when we feel seen and are recognized. It matters when we hear our name called, and there is a moment of celebration that deeply matters to us. Now. I was the class of oh five. Maybe for you, it's been a few more years than that since you graduated high school, but all a bunch, yeah, a few years, a few decades. But all of us know and we remember a moment when we were called out and beautifully celebrated and recognized. I specifically remember a surprising awards day for me in high school. I was not the athlete, though I wish I was. I was not that good, but I did belong to the FBLA Future Business Leaders of America. I don't know if that still exists or not, but that's what, that's the group I ran with. And every year we got to participate in state and national competition, and every year I chose the easier route and I turned in a report, because I could turn that thing in and then not worry about it during the competition, which meant I got these free trips, and I could go enjoy my time because I had already turned in my report. Well, one year after I won the state competition for this, I got to go to Nationals, and my chapter director, she caught on to my winning strategy. I said, Hey, we're just praying faithful. This gotta go, and he's not having to do anything. So she said, Hey, you gotta pick a subject you're gonna compete in while you're actually here for the competition. So I looked through all the lists of things that were being offered, and I chose to take an exam in Excel and access database. Why? Because it was multiple choice. Okay, that's why I did it. So I got into this exam room, and they give you the exam and a scantron. How many of you remember the Scantron sheet? Oh, yeah, before you could take exams on iPads, you had to use a Scantron sheet, and you had to make sure that little circle was all the way filled in, because you didn't want your answer not to be counted. Walked into this room. It's about 200 kids here competing in Excel and access database. So exciting. I read the first few questions. I was like, wait, what languages is I do not understand a single word in here. So I spend the next 15 minutes Christmas treeing my way through the entire Scantron. Might as well, I gotta do something. So I Christmas treat my way in 15 minutes, I walk up to the front to the prompter, and I handed my exam sheet and scan turn over, and she said, Sir, do you have a question? So now I'm done. You sure everything's okay? I was like, Yeah, I'm done. So I turned it in and I left. The next day, it was award ceremony, and they were calling all the competitions, and when it came to excel and access database, guess who got third place in the entire country? Yeah, your boy lib in Abraham. Okay, shocked as I've ever been in my life. My friends thought I was a genius, and I thought surely there's another lib in Vale, not to Abraham somewhere in the building. It can't be me, but it was, and that's the day I understood the doctrine of grace, where you get some things in life you do not deserve. If

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you got a

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question about your Excel, don't come to me, because I don't know much more than you do. Christmas made my way through it, but we have meaningful days of words or rewards that we remember. But here's what I want you to know, the greatest rewards day is not behind us, it is ahead of us. There is an ultimate day of rewards. So we're all inching our way to

words where in heaven your name is called and there you stand not before a teacher or a coach or a boss. No, no, you will stand before the Lord Jesus, Christ. And every Christian, every Christ follower, is individually celebrated, recognized for how we stewarded the life that God gave us to live and steward. And today, that's what I want to talk to you about, rewards day. The scriptures name this the judgment seat of Christ. Now the passage is simply called that day because it is the day of all days.

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Yes,

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it is the day to greatly anticipate, not to fear, but to greatly anticipate. And I think if you wondered, do my actions actually matter after I become a Christian, this might help you answer that, because it does. Though we are not saved by our works, we know we are saved by the grace of God alone. On rewards day, our actions and even our motives actually do count. So today, would you stand with me as we read this passage in scripture in Second Corinthians five, let's stand on our feet in honor of God's Word. And here's what the Apostle Paul says about the judgment seat of Christ, or in other words, rewards day. Paul writes this so we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. In fact, we are confident and we would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. Therefore, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to Him, for we must all appear before and here it is the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid, or you can say, rewarded, for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. For the love of Christ compels us verse 14, since we have reached this conclusion that one died for all, and therefore all died, and he died for all, so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised. Amen. Thanks be to God for His Word. You may be seated now, as we've been in this series called reimagine heaven. I know some of you have had some questions around the sequencing of events, like, where are some of these things going to fall into now I want to say just a quick word or two about that. The Bible does not necessarily give us a calendar of events in perfectly laid out order. What the Bible does, though, is give us clues and images of what is ahead. And faithful Christians across Christian history have disagreed and debated over the order and the details of end time events or what order these things will take place. And it's because the apocalyptic visions of Daniel Ezekiel and John in Revelation, they don't read like a chronology of events. They read more like scenes in a movie where you get to see peek into different scenes, and yet, they're all situated on the exact same narrative that, though we don't know the details of every event. What we do know is that in the end, Jesus reigns victoriously, that Christ is triumphant for His church, and he will be triumphant with his church, and that's the end of the story we do know about now, though, we hold some of the sequences, loosely I've listed in your notes, a few events we know are ahead of us. You may disagree even on the order of these things, that's okay, because this is not about when these things will happen. It's simply a list of what is ahead. Okay, so here's a few things that we know is ahead of us. We know Christ will return for his church. Some call this the private coming of Jesus, or the church is caught up with Jesus in the clouds. We know there will be a judgment seat of Christ, which we will talk about today, a judgment seat of Christ that comes after the appearing of Jesus. We know there is a marriage supper of the Lamb that revelation 19 talks about. We know that there will be tribulation on the earth, and when Jesus talked about tribulation, it was meant for first century. Christians and Christians throughout the last 2000 years have experienced some persecution and some tribulation. But Jesus gave this imagine this image that the nearer we get to his return, the tribulation increases like like birth pains in frequency and intensity, until he returns. Then we know that there is a return where Jesus doesn't just come for His church, but he comes with his church. And this is actually the moment, the scene that the book of Revelation opens up with, where every eye sees the return of Jesus with His Bride, there is a millennial kingdom where Satan is bound, and Jesus rules on the earth for 1000 years. And then at the end of that, Satan is released for final rebellion to deceive the nations, and many will be deceived. And then we read in Revelation 20 about the Great White Throne Judgment. Great White Throne Judgment. So when you read the book of Revelation, you come across two judgments. The one is what we talk about today, the judgment seat of Christ. And the two is a great white throne judgment. Now for believers, we are only at the judgment seat of Christ. The Great White Throne Judgment is reserved for those. Who rejected Christ. So if you're in Christ, you're not going to show up on that day. You got to pass why? Because you have already been dealt with in your sin because of Christ. So we get to go to rewards day. But those who rejected Christ have their final judgment at the Great White Throne Judgment, and those who rejected Christ are cast away into an eternity apart from Christ and the last story of this great, beautiful redemptive story, is what Jordan Rayner talked about last week. It is the ushering in of the new heavens and the new earth, where this city from on high comes on Earth. And here we will dwell with God face to face for all eternity, long. So again, we hold those sequencing loosely, and we can all

disagree and debate about what order. That's totally okay in the Christian community. But what we do know is that this is a story that God is unfolding where he is victorious and triumphant, and we are headed towards the new heavens and the new earth. Now I want to talk to you about the judgment seat of Christ that Paul wrote to us in Second Corinthians, chapter five. And in this text, there's four key things that Paul wants Christians everywhere to know. And here's the first thing we need to know about the judgment seat of Christ. We have confidence. Paul begins this section highlighting our confidence in Christ. So he says in verse eight of Second Corinthians, five, in fact, we are confident, and we would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So Paul has this deep confidence that the moment we are absent in this human body, we are present with God for all eternity long. How does he have this confidence? It's because he knows that the moment he places faith in Christ, His Eternity has already been settled. It's a cure. It's settled. In fact, the Christian faith is the only faith in the entire world where you don't have to hope you will be in eternity with God. You don't even have to wonder if you'll be there. You have a no so not a hope. So you know without a shadow of doubt where you stand when it comes to eternity. And here's how we know that. Look what Jesus said in John Five, Verse 24 truly, I tell you he's saying, this is serious. Here's what I'm saying. Anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. Notice the tense, not will have eternal life. But no, the moment you trust in Christ, your eternal life has already begun. And then he says, they will not come under judgment, but again, has not will, but you have already passed from death to life. The good news for a Christian is that you don't pass from death to life when you die on this earth. No, you have already passed from death to life the moment you put your faith and trust in Jesus, the all you has died, the eternal you is alive now in Christ. And when we say our goodbye to this present life, we're continuing the eternal life that began when we place our faith in Jesus. So here's the confidence we have. Our sin is already dealt with, our security, our eternity is secure, and on that day when we arrive at the judgment seat of Christ, Jesus will not be a judge who condemns us, rather, he will be a Savior who rewards us, He will be a Savior who rewards us. Heaven is not going to be like a Disney trip for some where they spent all the work and money to get to Disney finally make it through the entrance gates, get in front of their favorite ride, and then it says the riot is now closed. Nothing can trigger a temper tantrum Quicker, quicker than that, I've seen it. So when you get to the judgment seat, that's not the day where your eternity is decided. You don't have to get there that day wondering if you're in No, no, you're there because you are already in Christ and the Bible says not even the devil could snatch you out of the Father's hand. Amen. This is the confidence we have. Our eternity is settled. We know where we stand, because we have already passed from death to life. So we have confidence. And second of all, in this text, we have our commitment. How do we live in light of this confidence? Second, Corinthians, five, verse nine, Paul says, Therefore, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim, our singular purpose, to be pleasing to Him. The security we have in our salvation does not lead to indifference, apathy, essentialness. Us where we just get to live in sin, because we're already saved, because we have security of salvation, we have a deep new desire to be pleasing to Him, to honor him with our life, to celebrate God's grace in our life through how we live. So this actually is so freeing, because you don't have to spend the days of your life pleasing people. You get to please an audience of one. You don't have to live your lives for the applause of people. You live your life for the applause of heaven. You don't have to live your life wondering what others think about you and base your decisions on others' thoughts about you? No, you live in the freedom of knowing what your heavenly Father thinks about you and knowing that his opinion about you is the only one that ultimately matters. This is what Romans says in chapter two, verse one, Paul says it like this, using the same word, Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God. That's important to know, because we don't please God to try and earn the mercy of God or to get in on the good graces of God. No, you can never do that. Religion says that's what you got to do. But that's not what the Gospel says In view of the mercies of God, because he has been so merciful. I urge you to present in your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. This is your true worship. This is our reasonable act of worship, that because he has been so merciful, He has been so kind to forgive us, kind to save us, so merciful in how he has dealt with us. Now we spend the rest of our life honoring, pleasing, worshiping Him. These two statements are held together, that we are secure in Christ and we're accountable to Christ. They're not in opposition, opposition held together. We are safe, secure in Christ, and we are accountable to him. Now, much of what I said was also true in the Old Covenant, where people experienced the mercy of God, they were called to live pleasing lives to Him, but in all that they did, they were incapable of doing so they fail. They fail miserably. They missed the mark. So what makes it hopeful for you and I in the New Covenant to please God. Let me tell you what makes it hopeful for us. Philippians two. Paul says it like this in Philippians two, verse 12, work out your salvation with fear and trembling. He's like, here's how you live out your salvation story. Verse 13, for it is God who is working where in you both to will and to work according to His good purpose. This is so important for the New Covenant. God doesn't just say, okay, good luck pleasing me. No, no. He calls you to please Him, to love him. And guess who enables you to please Him? God. So what you have now, the advantage we have in the new covenant is God has given us His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, who from within us is fueling our work, fueling our desires and fueling our very will to please Him. So on that day when we stand before God at the judgment seat of Christ, we are

rewarded simply based on how responsive we were to the work of the Holy Spirit inside of us, because you cannot please God apart from his grace working inside you and equipping you. And Jesus would say this in John 15, verse five, I am the vine. You are the branches, the one who remains in me, and I in him, produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. You can't please God without God. And I read that early on in my life. I used to put all the emphasis on produce much fruit, because I thought that's what pleasing God means. I'm going to strive, try harder, work harder than anybody around me, to try and produce fruit. Then I recognize that's not actually the order in which Jesus says it. The words of Jesus is, Abide in me. Remain in me, trust in me. Stay close to me. Spend time with me. Know my voice, get acquainted with my heart. Be in this love relationship with me, and when you are you'll automatically produce fruit. So the driving force is not producing fruit, but it's abiding in Christ. So it really is as simple as abide in Christ, and you will please him. Abide in Jesus, and you will honor him. You will love him because why it's a relationship of love that we brought into you. Don't please God by striving you please God by daily abiding and being responsive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit inside you. So our confidence, eternity, secure our commitment to please him as he works in us and we abide in Him. Now Paul gets to our commendation, and here's where we talk about rewards, our commendation. Second, Corinthians, Five, Verse 10, For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. The Greek word for the judgment seat is the word Bema the Bema Seat. Now I know, if you've been at Ben tree for a little while, you know something about the Bema Seat. How many of you were here for all the Bema presentations? Yeah, beautiful. Amen. It has been a formative teaching in our church to live today in view of this day, that day, because that day is coming. We even gave out Bema bucks for serving in ministry. We couldn't afford to pay you real money, so we gave you Bama bucks storing up treasures in heaven. It is an important part of our church's history. Here is a Bama seat picture in Corinth. You have the remains there on the top. It was an elevated platform where city leaders and magistrates will come and declare things speak it was at the center of the city, and here's what it would have looked like on the bottom of what a rendering would have been like in first century. So Paul is speaking to those in Corinth who are familiar with the Bema. He's saying, Hey, we're all going to appear before the Bema, the judgment seat of Christ. But here's a few things he wants us to know about that day. That day it's about commendation not condemnation. It's about commendation not condemnation. The Bama seed is not like a courtroom where your sins are exposed. The Bema Seat is like a celebration room where your faithfulness is revealed and rewarded, because not if you grow up like me, I'm thinking, man, there's a big TV that's going to expose all my sins, and it's a day of shame and regret. That is not the picture. Why? Because your sins have been forgiven, cast as far as the east is from the dead, from the west. Why would God bring your sins back up? He won't. This day is not a core room where sins are exposed. It is a celebration room where your faithfulness, your stewardship of life, is revealed, recognized and celebrated. Here's another thing about the Bema, attendance is required. It's not like other award ceremony where you can opt out. We don't have to necessarily walk the stage if you want to graduate. No, no. Every Christian will show up on this day. Paul says, we must all appear before the Bema Seat. He repeats it in Romans 14 two times. He says, verse 10, for we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. It's an interesting word for all in the Greek. You know what it means all, that's what it means. Okay, we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Verse 12. So then each of us will give an account of himself or herself to God. You won't get to give an account of somebody else's life. You give an account of your life, your story, your gifts, your stewardship of the life God gave you on that day. We don't simply get a participation trophy. It's better than that, you don't get a generic reward for just being a Christian. Now you are rewarded in the most detailed way of your story. You will feel more seen and understood and more known on that day than ever before, because the rewards that God gives you is specific to your journey, the steps you took to love him and honor him and serve others. It's not just a mere participation story. It's much better because it is specific to your story and your life. So what does God reward on that day, what does God reward? Here's a few things I want to list for you. We won't have time to go into detail, but I want to just give you some context for what the scripture says God rewards. First of all, God rewards faithfulness, not fame. Faithfulness. Here's what Colossians says in chapter three, verse 23 whatever you do, do it from the heart as something done for the Lord and not for people, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord, because you serve Him, not people, not your boss, you serve the Lord Jesus. So be faithful when no one is watching. Be faithful in the little things. Because. Your heavenly Father sees and he rewards. God rewards stewardship, the stewardship of our resources and of our life. Jesus told a parable in Luke 19, which he ended with the statement, well done, good servant. He told him, Because you have been faithful in very small matter, I have given authority over 10 towns. It's a part of ruling and reigning. God says, Man, because you were so faithful with the little I gave you, Here's your reward, 10 towns to rule and reign over. You won't ever be responsible for what you were never given, because you can look around and say, Man, that person has more or less, and we live our lives through the lens of comparison, but on that day, you're only rewarded for what God gave you, to steward your talents, your treasure, your time, your resources, your influence, but how you stewarded those specific moments, we are rewarded also for our motives. We are not just rewarded for the what we

did, but for the why we did it. Notice what Paul says in First Corinthians, four, verse five, so don't judge anything prematurely, because the Lord comes who will both bring to light what is hidden in darkness and reveal the intentions of the heart. There are some people who claim to do great things for God, but they're actually doing it for themselves. And on the world, on the earth, they might get rewarded and exalted, but on that day, it won't matter, because their intentions are revealed, and it didn't count. We are then rewarded for eternal significance and impact. Paul talks about this life we're building even in ministry. And Paul says in First Corinthians, three verse 12 to 15, if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, each one's work will become obvious for the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire. The fire will test the quality of each one's work. If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will experience loss, but he himself will be saved, but only asks through fire. Again, a lot of things that might look impressive on the earth, but when it goes to the refiner's fire, it may not last. It's Paul saying, live your life, build your life in a way that lasts this fire of refinement. Here's what else is rewarded, acts of love, acts of kindness and compassion and love are rewarded. Jesus said these words in Matthew 10, verse 42 and what and whoever gives even a cup of water to any one of these little ones, because he is a disciple truly, I tell you, he will never lose his reward. Even the smallest act of kindness you pay to somebody, the smallest act of love and compassion in caring for the body of Christ that may not be celebrated by somebody else, it's not significant enough for you to post on social media, but it is kept in the heart of God, and he sees and he rewards even the smallest acts of love. God also rewards our generosity. Jesus talked about giving in Matthew six, verse three to four. Notice what Jesus said, but when you give to the poor, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing later on, Jesus says, If you give simply to be seen, you got already your reward on Earth using give in secret, so that your giving may be in secret, and your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you the giving that no one may notice. Your father sees, and he rewards your generosity. Here's the last one I want to give you. We are rewarded for our suffering, for Christ, for how well we endured difficulty, hardship, even persecution, for the cause of Jesus. Jesus said this in Matthew five, verse 11 to 12, you are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me, be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. It's worth enduring Well, suffering well for the cause of Christ, because these painful moments here result in precious moments there, because God sees and he rewards now, as I just went through that list of us being evaluated and celebrated for acts of faithfulness and love and even our motives, here's a natural question you may have well on that day at the judgment seat.

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will I actually have regret about how I stewarded my life? It's a fair question. Is it, do I have regret? And here's what I think we will have. I think we will have some holy regrets, but not the kind of regret that brings shame or condemnation, not the regret that says I wasn't enough, but holy regret that says I could have loved more, I could have served I could have been more intentional, because we all can be that way. But here's what I want to help you understand the grace of God, even if we may have holy regrets. John in Revelation talks about a scene where Jesus wipes away every tear from our eyes. And you know, when that scene is it's way after rewards day. It's way after rewards day. So even if we carry a little bit of holy regret thinking I could have loved better. I could have served more. I could have put others first. Jesus, in His kindness and His grace, comes to you, and he wipes away every ounce of grief, sadness and even our holy regret, and here's what he'll say to you, yeah, you could have loved more. You could have served more, but I didn't die on a cross. I didn't save you for anything you could have done for me. I saved you so that you could be with me forever. And he'll say, Look at this. We are together forever. This is why I came for you. This is why I saved you, and the joy of our eternal union with Christ will drown out every grief and every regret possible, because we will cherish for eternity the gladness of being face to face with Jesus forevermore. Amen, some us, some of us, we may even have a little grief about who's not in heaven, but I believe Jesus wipes even that tear away and you carry for all eternity the joy and gladness of being with Jesus, because that's what he came for, not for anything you could have done for him, but to be with him for ever as we read about rewards, the Scripture gives us specific crowns that are given to believers. I want to go through this quickly. We're almost out of time. So here are the crowns we receive. Okay, three specific crowns. You can read more later for your own homework. First of all, the crown of righteousness. We read about this in Second Timothy, chapter four, verse eight, where Paul says, There is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous judge will give me on that day. But not only to Paul, he says, but for everyone who loved this appearing for all those who have looked forward to the coming of Jesus, place their love in him. You receive this crown of righteousness. Then James talks about the crown of life. James one, verse two, verse 12, James

says, Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to everyone who loves him, to crown of righteousness and crown of life. And then Peter talks about the crown of glory, especially for leaders and shepherds of The Church of Jesus and Peter says in First Peter Five, Verse four, when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading Crown of Glory. So here's the deal. You'll recognize, celebrated, seen for how you stewarded your life. God gives you certain crowns in honor of your faithfulness to him. But guess what we do with our crown? With those crowns, we don't keep them on our head to glory in our crowns. Let me tell you what we do. We return our crowns at the feet of Jesus. We return our crowns at the feet of Jesus. Jesus places crowns on your head, and you cannot wait to place them at your feet, at his feet, and this is what Revelation four talks about with the elders and the and the living creatures. Notice what they do in Revelation four, verse 10, they cast their crowns before the throne and say, Our Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power because you have created all things, and by your will, they exist and were created. So as we receive these crowns from Jesus. We're going to look around and we'll look at him, and we'll be so thankful. We'll be so appreciative, but ultimately, we recognize Jesus. It's your work in me that allowed me to do this. It's your grace in me that empowered me, your grace that. Save me, enable me to do anything that is worthwhile, anything that lasts, anything that is good. And so we recognize all glory belongs to him, all honor belongs to him. So we take our crowns and we begin to worship Jesus with the very crowns he gave to us, every crown, every reward, expands our ability to worship him. It's just one more thing to lay at the feet of Jesus. And can I tell you we can do that even now. So often we talk about giving Jesus or surrendering our sins and our struggle to Jesus, but Can I remind you we are also to surrender our successes at the feet of Jesus, our successes, our wins, our blessings, all of it belongs to the feet of Jesus, because one look at his eyes and we recognize only you are worthy of worship for all eternity, long, amen, Only Jesus is worthy. So we don't live our lives wanting to be rewarded. We live our lives because he is worthy of our worship. I want to end with this last thing Paul calls us to between now and then, in view of that day, what's our calling today? And here's what Paul says in Second Corinthians five, verse 14, for the love of Christ compels us, compels us. Says we have reached this conclusion that one died for all, and therefore all died. One died for all, and all died, and he died for all, so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised before Christ came to live in our hearts, in our life, may we live for us. The arrow of our soul pointed inward. But now that we are new and alive in Christ, the arrow of our soul points to him. We live for the one who died for us, and you cannot live for the one who died for you without loving the ones he died for, without caring about those he died for. Now the attention of our heart is not just about me and my things and my comfort. It is pointed to love God and to love our neighbor. So senior students today marks a beginning of a new direction in your life. But the most important question is not what will I do, but who will I live for? Who will I live for? And that's the same for all of us, that when we stand at the Bema, the judgment seat of Christ, our earthly resumes, the applause of people, the opinions of others, won't really matter all that much. But what will matter is, who did you live for? Who are you living for? Who are you living for? What is it that motivates you? So I want to invite you with all your stuff, resources, time, gifts, relationships, influence, Steward today, with this day in mind, Would you bow your heads with me? The eager desire of our soul is on that day to simply hear well done, good and faithful servant. So here's a prayer that's become a hymn from missionary CT stud called only one life, he wrote like this, give me father a purpose so deep in joy or sorrow, Thy Word to keep faithful and true, whatever the strife pleasing thee in my daily life, only one life will soon be past, and what's done for Christ will last. Oh, let my love will forever burn and from the world. Now, let me turn living for thee and Thee alone, bringing thee pleasure on Thy throne, only one life will soon be past, and only what's done for Christ will last. So Father, would you enable us by your Spirit at work in us to live like this? There may be some today, they're going to experience a seat change. They're going to go from needing to appear before the Great White Throne Judgment because they've rejected Christ, that today they will accept Christ and now belong at the judgment seat of rewards. So friend, if that's you, today is the day the grace of God has been extended to you. You get to rewrite your story because God's given Himself to you. He's paid the price of your sins so that you don't have to for all eternity. Would you receive Him as Lord and Savior, accept the work on the cross and of the empty grave on your behalf and for all of us in this room, Father, give us a singular aim, that because of our confidence in you, we can live committed to. Honoring and loving you for all the days of our life. Holy Spirit help us, because this life will pass, and only what's done for Christ will last in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen, amen. Amen, aren't you thankful for that day that is ahead of us? Amen.