

BE READY – 4
JULY 21, 2024

2 COR. 5:7-10

Many think that after the Rapture, they enter Heaven, get their new home, a new assignment, enjoy God's presence, and live happily ever after. This is all true, but, before all this, we all must give an account of the deeds done in our earthly bodies. Knowing this, we should study the "Bema" to understand what it is, what will happen there, and how we can prepare for it.

Who Participates?

Every Believer: **2 COR. 5:10** Jesus is the Judge, **JOHN 5:22-23**. It's universal and unavoidable. Jesus will judge us all by fire.

What is it? ROM. 14:12-14

A raised platform and official seat of the judge. It was in the center of the forum where a person of authority dispensed judgment or rewards: military discipline or rewards; Olympic games, a court of justice.

When? 1 COR. 4:5

After the Lord comes (Rapture) when He judges the counsels of the hearts.

Where? 1 THES. 4:16-18

In Heaven, after the Rapture. **2 COR. 5:8** We leave Earth, receive our new body and stand before the Bema of Christ.

Why? 1 COR. 3:10-15 NASB

Not to determine our salvation. **REV. 4:3** The rainbow is an emblem of mercy, peace, and reconciliation. It represents the covenant of grace. **REV. 20:12-15**

- To evaluate the quality of our building materials, to determine if they are inferior or superior. **MT. 6:1-6; 16-18**. Whether giving, praying, or fasting, our reward will come from God or man, depending on our motives.
- To receive our crowns: Life (**JA. 1:12**); rejoicing (**1 THES. 2:19**); righteousness (**2 TIM. 4:8**); incorruptible (**1 COR. 9:25**), glory (**1 PET. 5:4**).
- To purify us and make us white (**DAN. 12:10**). The refiner's fire is what makes us pure before God.
- To reap what we've sown (**GAL. 6:7-9**).

How?

By examining our motives, methods, and manner of life. What we do, why we do it, and does it bring glory to God (**1 COR. 10:31**). If we love Jesus, our lives will show it in our motives, methods, and manner of life.

Treat others (**HEB. 6:10**); Use our abilities (**MT. 25**); steward our finances (**PR. 3:9-10**); use our tongue (**MT. 12:36**); run our race (**1 COR. 9:24-27**); handle tests (**JA. 1:12**); deal with persecution (**MT. 5:11-12**); witness (**DAN. 12:3**); faithfulness (**LUKE 16:10-12**); treat those in need (**LK. 14:12-14**); love walk (**EPH. 5:1-2**).

Conclusion: Every believer will stand before the Bema of Christ. Knowing this, we all should examine our motives, methods, and manner of life, in order to experience the most favorable judgment possible. Let's strive for the best and go for the gold (**PHIL. 3:12-15 AMPC**).