

**THE WEEK OF
July 27th, 2009**



**Series 5, Number 23
The Bema Seat
Zondervan Charts of Bible Prophecy, Chart 108**

"Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."

I Corinthians 3:12-15

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

II Corinthians 5:10

This week we come to a subject that should bring us great joy and anticipation: The Bema Seat. As believers this is the payoff. Jesus said, "Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven." There is a reality that many Christians don't pay close enough attention to and it ties directly to this "judgment seat". We see the reality in 1 Cor 3, above. Paul says that our work that burns will be lost, but we will be saved. You are probably familiar with the idea that our salvation comes in three stages: Justification, Sanctification and Glorification. We speak of salvation being "by faith alone in Christ alone" but what we should really be saying is Justification by faith alone in Christ alone. Why? Because Sanctification, the portion of our salvation where we earn these rewards, is very much by works. All of our works, our hunger for significance and praise; if carried out for Christ and through our relationship with Him, will not be unrecognized by the Rewarder.

**Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day example:
*If it's the 1st day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)***

This week we consider the crowns, rewards for believers:

- Mon:** Crown of Life: "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." Revelation 2:10; James 1:12 - For all the faithful to Christ.
- Tue:** Crown of Glory: "...when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory..." 1 Peter 5:1-4 - For those who faithfully shepherd the flock.
- Wed:** Crown of Righteousness: ".there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness..." I Timothy 4:8 - Those who live expectantly of Christ's return.
- Thu:** Crown of Rejoicing: "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing.." 1 Thessalonians 2:19; Those whose testimony has been believed.
- Fri:** Crown of Victory: "...but we for an imperishable crown." 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Those who discipline themselves to live a life consistent with their testimony.

Discussion Questions for Bible Café:

1. What is the difference between sanctification and justification? Have you ever thought about the difference?

2. Why are works important for sanctification?

PREPARING FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):