

*"Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him. For we **must ALL appear** before the Judgment Seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2Corinthians 5:6-10 KJV*



Every thought, action, and intent of each believer will be judged by the Righteous Fire of God's Holiness. OUR works will consume away as so much tender and the "gold, silver, and precious stones" of righteous deeds will remain. Gold represents faith; silver represents Christ's redemptive work; and precious stones represent the members of the Body of Christ. "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house...acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." Paul uses the analogy of the "Bema Seat," a raised platform in the ancient Olympic Games on which judges sat to determine the winners of each event. It was an awards ceremony. The only suffering was watching another receive the victor's crown. At the believers' Judgment Seat of Christ, there will be awards handed out on the merit of the works done through the power of Christ. All OUR works will be of none effect. Only works that stand the test of the righteousness of Christ will be rewarded. A Crown of Glory will be given to those that "Feed the flock of God...taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind...Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." (1Pet 4:2-4) A Crown of Righteousness will be handed out "unto all them also that love His appearing." (2Tim. 4:8) A Crown of Life will be given to "the man that endureth temptation; the Lord hath promised [it] to them that love Him" (James 1:12) and are "faithful unto death." (Rev. 2:10) If we walk in the Spirit through obedience to God's Word, the "mind of Christ," God's Word in our thoughts, will control our thoughts and actions, instead of the flesh. Paul wrote just before he was beheaded, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH: Henceforth there is laid up for me a Crown of Righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall give me at that Day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." Through faith we please God and "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." HEARING God's Word means OBEYING God's Word. Did you ever hear this as a child; "Did you hear what I said?" Your parent wasn't interested in your ability to hear, they wanted to know why you hadn't obeyed! Jesus often said, "Him that hath ears, let him hear (understand and obey). We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might...redound to the glory of God. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ (God's Word), and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." How much thought, time, and energy, will you waste on the 'wood, hay, and stubble' of carnal desire?"

We must before the Judge appear,
It will not be a time of fear,
And those whose deeds are not cast down,
Receive from Christ, eternal Crowns. ~CGP

Be a righteous "gatekeeper." Be constantly vigilant of all that passes in and out of the eye, ear, and mouth gates. Keep the Prayer Temple of your body free of the "money changers" which defile!

"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:28-29 KJV