

## FAQ Document: The Judgment of Believers' Works & When Do We Leave?"

Lesson 4 - August 24, 2025

### **What is the "Judgment of the Believer's Works" and what is its purpose?**

The "Judgment of the Believer's Works" refers to a future event where the works of all believers will be tested by God. Its purpose is not to determine salvation (as salvation is already secured through faith), but to determine the rewards each believer will receive.

- This judgment is based on the believer's motives, conduct, and utilization of their spiritual gifts, all of which define their "ministry."

### **How are a believer's works tested, and what are the outcomes?**

A believer's works are metaphorically tested by fire (1 Corinthians 3:13-15).

- Works built with gold, silver, and precious stones (representing sound doctrine, proper motives, holy conduct, and spiritually beneficial service) will endure and result in rewards.

- Works built with wood, hay, and stubble (representing worthless actions done according to one's own desires rather than God's) will be burned up, resulting in a loss of rewards—though the believer themselves will still be saved "as through fire."

- This loss is not punishment, but rather the absence of earned rewards.

### **What are the different categories of builders or workers mentioned?**

Three categories are described:

#### **1. Constructive Workers/Builders**

- Build with sound doctrine, right motives, and effective service.
- Their works endure and result in eternal rewards.

#### **2. Worthless Workers/Builders**

- Saved, but their works are largely consumed by fire.
- Motivated by personal desires instead of God's will.
- They suffer loss of rewards but not salvation.

#### **3. Destructive Workers**

- Individuals (believers or unbelievers) who actively defile or destroy the work of God or His church.
- God declares: "If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are" (1 Corinthians 3:17, NKJV).

### **What types of rewards can believers expect, and what is their ultimate purpose?**

Believers may receive crowns as rewards:

- Incorruptible Crown – for faithfulness, obedience, and self-discipline (1 Corinthians 9:25).
- Crown of Righteousness – for those who love Christ's appearing (2 Timothy 4:8).
- Crown of Rejoicing – for soul-winning (1 Thessalonians 2:19).

- Crown of Glory – for faithful shepherds (1 Peter 5:4).
- Crown of Life – for those who endure trials out of love for Christ (James 1:12).

In Revelation 4:10, the 24 elders (representing the redeemed) cast their crowns before Christ's throne, symbolizing worship, adoration, and acknowledgment of His worthiness.

### **What is the "Rapture" and what are the main views on its timing?**

The "Rapture" (or catching away) is a promised event where believers will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Three main views exist regarding its timing in relation to the Tribulation:

1. Pre-Tribulation Rapture (Pre-Trib) – The church is raptured before the Tribulation.
2. Mid-Tribulation Rapture (Mid-Trib) – The church is raptured midway through the Tribulation.
3. Post-Tribulation Rapture (Post-Trib) – The church endures the Tribulation and is raptured at its end.

### **Why is the timing of the Rapture considered an important question for Christians?**

The timing of the Rapture carries both practical and theological significance:

- If the church goes through the Tribulation, Christians may need to prepare physically (e.g., stockpiling supplies).
- If the church is raptured before, the focus is primarily spiritual—being ready for Christ's return.

While important, this is clarified as a matter of doctrine, not salvation.

### **What are the characteristics of the Tribulation period as described?**

The Tribulation is a seven-year period of unprecedented global turmoil, described in passages such as Matthew 24 and Revelation. It is characterized by:

- Wars and nations rising against each other.
- Israel's return and eventual redemption.
- Earthquakes, pestilence, famine, and widespread unbelief.
- Growth of an apostate church and religious unity (ecumenism).
- A one-world government under the Antichrist and the False Prophet.
- Fiery judgments that kill over half the world's population.

Jesus warned: "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matthew 24:21, NKJV).

### **How does the source address the common sentiment "God would not put His church through the Tribulation"?**

The teaching acknowledges this sentiment but emphasizes that personal feelings must yield to Scripture.

- Many Christians believe God will spare His church from such suffering (supporting a Pre-Trib view).
- Others emphasize examining the biblical text itself, not assumptions, to discern God's plan.

## Greek Words & Notes

Greek Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition	Footnote
φάυλος (phaulos)	FOW-los	Means 'worthless, of no account.' Used in 2 Corinthians 5:10 where Paul contrasts good (agathos) works with worthless (phaulos) works, not evil in the moral sense.	[1]
στέφανος (stephanos)	STEF-an-os	A victor's crown or wreath given as a reward for faithful service. Distinguished from διάδημα (diadēma), which is a royal crown. Seen in Revelation 4:10.	[2]
διάδημα (diadēma)	dee-AH-de-ma	A kingly crown, symbolizing sovereignty. Used of Christ in Revelation 19:12.	[3]

### Footnotes:

1. 2 Corinthians 5:10 – “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 (phaulos = worthless).”
2. Revelation 4:10 – The 24 elders cast their stephanos (victor's crowns) before the throne.
3. Revelation 19:12 – Christ wears many diademata (royal crowns), symbolizing His ultimate authority.