

Speaker : Prince Guneratnam  
Title : The Rewards Of The Raptured Saints

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## The Rapture

(1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

The next event is the Rewards of the Raptured Saints

(1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 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. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

- Our rewards will depend on what we have done on earth
- We are builders
- We build on the foundation where Christ is the foundation or Chief Cornerstone.

(Ephesians 2:19-22)

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

- Paul describes the kind of materials we build with

(1 Corinthians 3:12-15)

12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 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. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

- We are judged on the materials and it is by fire

(1 Corinthians 3:13)

"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."

- The place for the judgment is at Judgment Seat of Christ

(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.

THERE ARE THREE JUDGMENTS FOR EVERY BELIEVER

- First, we are judged as sinners
    - This was where Jesus paid the price for our sins on the cross

(Romans 8:1)  
 “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

(2 Corinthians 5:17)  
 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
  - Second, we are judged now for our disobedience as sons
- (Hebrews 12:6)  
 “For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.”
- Third, we will be judged for what we do for the Kingdom at the Judgment Seat Of Christ

#### The Parable of the Talents

##### As Sons, God Has Given Us Talents

- It is He, who gives us power to make wealth

(Deuteronomy 8:18)

“And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

- The purpose of our wealth is to establish His covenant or promises.
- God will use you as His instruments to keep some of His Promises

##### As Sons, God has opened doors Or Opportunities to GO, GIVE And SERVE

Paul experienced this (1 Corinthians 16:9)

“For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”

Jesus describes the open door given to the Church of Philadelphia

(Revelation 3:7)

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”:

Jesus says to all the 7 churches – “I know your works”

- Therefore, it does matter as a born-again believer:
  - How you live
  - What you do
  - How you use what you have
- Check yourself-
  - Are we living a disciplined life?
  - Are we substituting sacrifice for obedience?
  - Are we faithful stewards of God’s blessing

## THE PURPOSE FOR THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

- Firstly, we are not to judge one another –why?

(1 Corinthians 4:1-5 NJKV)

1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

(1 Corinthians 4:1-5 The Message)

1-4 Don't imagine us leaders to be something we aren't. We are servants of Christ, not his masters. We are guides into God's most sublime secrets, not security guards posted to protect them. The requirements for a good guide are reliability and accurate knowledge. It matters very little to me what you think of me, even less where I rank in popular opinion. I don't even rank myself. Comparisons in these matters are pointless. I'm not aware of anything that would disqualify me from being a good guide for you, but that doesn't mean much. The Master makes that judgment. 5 So don't get ahead of the Master and jump to conclusions with your judgments before all the evidence is in. When he comes, he will bring out in the open and place in evidence all kinds of things we never even dreamed of—inner motives and purposes and prayers. Only then will any one of us get to hear the "Well done!" of God.

- "Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes"
  - "To light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts [acts and intents]"
  
  - When God judge us. He judges our actions with our attitudes.
  - Man is incapable of judging our intentions.
  - Some of our actions seem wrong till our attitudes are known.
    - Some of our good works have wrong attitudes.
    - We are generous, kind, helpful but with bad motives and intentions
- Secondly, it is to reveal the true works of the believer
    - As stewards of God, we can build on the foundation of Jesus Christ with two types of materials:
      - Gold, silver and precious stones
        - Gold – Spiritual.
          - When you depend solely on the power of the Holy Spirit and not on yourself

(Zechariah 4:6)  
"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," Says the LORD of hosts."

    - Silver – Stewardship
      - When you are willing to use what He has given you for His purpose and glory.
    - Precious stones – Discipline

- These speak of steadfastness, consistency and faithfulness.

Believers are rewarded for spirituality, sacrifice, faithfulness and steadfastness

- Wood, hay and stubble
  - Wood – Unspiritual
    - Carnal means and not spiritual, depending on your own rational and ability
  - Hay – Bad Stewardship
    - Wrong use of what you have. Doing for what you can get – earthly rewards – for fame, position and etc.
  - Stubble – Undisciplined
    - Acting as a hypocrite – having a form but denying the truth
- Thirdly and finally, to receive our rewards as faithful stewards

We will receive crowns as our rewards

- The Crown Of Righteousness

(2 Timothy 4:8)

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

- The Crown Of Life

(James 1:12)

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

To the Church of Smyrna – Jesus said (Revelation 3:10)

“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10)

- The Crown Of Glory

(1 Peter 5:4)

“and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”

- The Crown Of Gold

(Revelation 4:4)

Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.

Man's rewards will perish on earth.  
God's rewards are eternal.

(1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

## CONCLUSION

Jesus warns us (Revelation 3:11)

"Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown."