

Saved from Wrath

Last month, we ended the Artios with when the Church of the Body will terminate. I'd like to pick up from there with the subject of Saved from Wrath. Keep in mind that we are still studying Scripture build-up.

Judgment for rewards

The great wrath is coming, one which will end a most devastating time of lawlessness, when mankind and God's earth will be redeemed from corruption caused by Lucifer and his hosts. Christians will be saved from the great wrath to come, but need to understand this from God's Word. The church of the body of Christ will be judged, but not for punishment. It will be judged for rewards.

(2 Cor 5:10 KJV) 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.

The 'judgment seat' mentioned in verse 10 isn't a judgment seat at all. In the Greek, these two words were translated from bema, an awards platform. The Hebrew word for bema is bi-mah, and it is used for Torah reading during services. In a Jewish synagogue, a bema is the raised area around the aron kodesh, or the sanctuary.

The Christian will stand upon the bema, but not for judgment; he will stand to give account of his life and to receive rewards for the good he has done.

(Rom 14:10-12 KJV) But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat [bema] of Christ. {11} For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. {12} So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Every Christian shall give account of himself to God. That is the purpose of the bema. Never is it mentioned that Christians will face punishment.

(2 Cor 5:10 KJV) 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.

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On the contrary, those who trouble Christians will be troubled by God. But, the bible never teaches that God will trouble Christians.

(2 Th 1:6-10 KJV) Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; {7} And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, {8} In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: {9} Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; {10} When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels. Can you imagine this? Jesus Christ and his mighty angels in flaming fire will take vengeance

on them that know not God and that obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ. Never does it say that Christians will feel this vengeance. What fantastic truth! Never does it say that Christians shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord.

Perhaps a moment should be taken to discuss man's ability to judge?

Man's Judgment

Man will not always rule like he does today.

(Isa 2:11-12 KJV) The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. {12} For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:

(Isa 2:17 KJV) And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Today, man does the judging. If this wasn't the Age of Grace, don't you believe for one minute a man could walk down the street and curse God like you hear everywhere you go. No. This is the Age of Grace, and you can curse God and spit in His face. But then, nobody will get away with saying you 'Jesus Christ so and so', for Jesus Christ will return as king of kings and lord of lords. The average person still says: 'what difference does it make if there were 3 crucified or 4 crucified?' At the Day of the Lord, things will be put in order and man will no longer rule.

The Lord's Day

The Lord's Day is the day when the Lord Jesus Christ shall do the judging. We are taught that the Lord's Day is Sunday. The Day of the Lord has nothing to do with a day of the week; it has only to do with when the Lord is going to do the judging. Today, man sits in the upper echelon and does the judging. One day, that will change. Today is man's day, but the Lord's Day is coming. What a thrill to know who we are in Christ Jesus. Knowing this allows our

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judgment to be right in man's day. When we talk about biblical truths that we must adhere to, in the verse, in the context, and used elsewhere, we must understand the gospel as it applies to these various times yet to come.

Administrations

In the bible, seven different administrations are described. Each administration, distinct periods of time, stands on it's own. There may be some carry over, but each administration stands on it's own.

Oikos and diakonia

In order to properly divide the administrations, two important Greek words need to be studied: oikos—house, and diakonia—serving.

Oikos

(Luke 10:38-40 KJV) Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house [oikos]. {39} And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at

Jesus' feet, and heard his word. {40} But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

Whoever ran the affairs of the house had complete control of that house. This person was just under the owner. The time this person serves is called an 'administration'.

Diakonia

Diakonia—means 'service' or 'ministry'.

(Acts 20:24 KJV) But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry [diakonia], which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

The work Paul was doing was called a service or ministry. There are ways of serving in the church of the body of Christ. Our administration

is different than any other administration, and there are different ways of serving in it.

(Rom 15:8 KJV) Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister [diakonos] of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* unto the fathers:

Diakonos—minister. Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision. This means that he was sent by God to minister only to the Jews.

(2 Cor 5:18 KJV) And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry [diakonia] of reconciliation;

Paul said that he had the ministry of calling God's people back to God. This is a way of serving. This way of serving is different than any other administration, for we have available to us nine manifestations of the gift of holy spirit. There are different administrations in the bible. We must be able to spot these in the Word of

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God so that we can rightly
divide God's Word.

Next month, we'll discover
all seven administrations.

Much Love in Christ!

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