

How God Will Judge Believers

Maurizio Mingardi
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Judgment of Believers

All Our Works Will Be Judged

The Test of Fire (fire burns what does not stand)

- **1Cor.3:11-15** – Judgment of believers - OF EVERY MAN'S WORK – is for rewards
 - Understanding Good Works and Dead Works – Superficially they look the same
 - As long as their Foundation is built on Christ Jesus - not their own works – their soul is eternally safe
- **Rev.1:14-15** – Vision of the Glorified Christ
 - WHITE HAIR = Sign of Wisdom and undefiled = after Moses saw God
 - EYES LIKE FLAME OF FIRE = penetrating insight with which Jesus will judge the work of the believer
 - FEET LIKE FINE BRASS AS IF REFINED IN A FURNACE = Feet are what you can stand on
 - VOICE LIKE SOUND OF MANY WATERS = Gospel gone out in all the earth
- WHAT SHOULD WE JUDGE?
 - QUALITY (precious material) NOT QUANTITY –
 - We should judge OUR OBEDIENCE – **Jn.14:15, 1Jn.5:3-5** -
 - **Isa.1:19** – WILLING AND OBEDIENT
 - We should judge OUR MOTIVES AND OUR ATTITUDE – Determine your TRUE PRIORITIES
 - Your ATTITUDE and FAITH go together, and produce actions
 - We should judge OUR SPIRITUAL POWER – **Col.1:29** (Working = Gk. *energia*),
 - **1Cor.4:20** – Kingdom is power (miracles)

Our Rewards

Parables Talents (15 years' wages) (**Mt.25:14-30**) & Minas (3 months' wages) (**Lk.19:11-27**)

- **Mt.25:15** – Different amounts of talents DISTRIBUTED ACCORDING TO ABILITIES
 - **Mt.25:21,23** – Same words – FAITHFULNESS for two servants
 - **Mt.25:26-30** – No reward but CAST OUT because of NOT BELIEVING = NEGATIVE EXPECTATIONS
- **Lk.19:16-19** – REWARDS PROPORTIONAL TO INCREASE achieved
 - **Lk.19:22-24** – Judged the servant with NEGATIVE ATTITUDE based on lack of faith and trust in the Lord – No reward and removed what received
- **NOT USING WHAT GOD GIVES TO US FOR HIS SERVICE IS CALLED WICKEDNESS**
- **SERVING CHRIST FAITHFULLY** now will result in a position of authority in God's Kingdom

Righteous vs. Wicked – Based on Faith but Demonstrated by Actions

- **Jam.4:17** – Not doing what you know is sin (also **Rom.14:23**)
- **Mal.3:18** – Not serving God is wickedness
- **Ps.1:4-5** – The wicked shall not stand in the judgment

Removal of Hypocrites

Reconciling the Parables with the Test of Fire

- Also in the BURNED WORKS there is an effort – but they produce no benefit
- **Jam.2:26** – Faith without works is dead –
 - Unfaithful servants **Mt.24:51** and **Lk.12:46**
- **Mt.7:18-23** – Not everyone who says Lord, Lord, but does of the Word
 - Taking the Gospel seriously and bearing fruits

Questions to Consider

1. Explain what is the judgment of believers according to 1Cor.3:11-15.
2. How should we judge ourselves?

3. What do the parable of the Talents and that of the Minas teach us?
4. How do our priorities reveal our beliefs?
5. How is faithfulness related to our beliefs (faith)?