

**- Order of Service -**

**Call to Worship**

**Welcoming Prayer**

**Reading 2 Corinthians 5:1-10**

- *Christ the sure and steady anchor*
- *Jesus the Shepherd of my soul*
- *284, Rock of Ages*
- *374, He leadeth me*

**Announcements and Prayer requests**

- **Communion and Pot-luck, Nov 5**

**Greeting**

**Message in the Word -**

***Living in light of the Rapture, the Blessed Hope***

**What comes after the Rapture? 1 - the Bema**

**2 Corinthians 5:1-10**

**Sending prayer**

**You may notice we don't pass an offering plate**

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

**- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -**

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**- Teaching -**

**Eric Peterman**

***Living in light of the Rapture, the Blessed Hope***

**What comes after the Rapture? Pt 1 - the Bema**

**2 Corinthians 5:1-10**

**- October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 -**

## Living in light of the Rapture, the Blessed Hope

### What comes after the Rapture? Pt 1 – the Bema

#### 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

The doctrine of the rapture of the church, the fact of the translation from these lowly mortal bodies and from death, to glorified bodies and relocation upward into heaven of the body of Christ, is the focus of our keen attention in this series. The rapture of the church is the next event on the eschatology calendar. It is imminent, and no signs need precede it. How should we then live?

We've looked at the fact of the rapture, we've considered the warning about false teachers, wolves, as a church age issue, and now we turn our attention in anticipation to what comes after we are raptured up to be with Christ in heaven. This is part 1 of a roadmap of the sequence of events that follow for us, who, by faith alone in Christ alone, are born again into a ready expectation of our great, Blessed Hope. The Bible lays out in general terms what we can expect, and in what order. It should be remembered that whilst we experience these things above, a very different, quite detailed set of things will begin unfolding on the earth in the time called the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel, the Great Tribulation, the and Time of Jacob's trouble.

Today we look at the 1<sup>st</sup> major event, which is outlined in our text, 1 Cor 5:1-10. The judgment seat (the Bema) of Christ for rewards.

Next time we look at the Marriage of the Lamb and the Marriage Supper/Feast of the Lamb (two distinct, but related events).

**2 Cor 5:1-4, The problem of these mortal bodies, and the yearning we have for a much better one, and an immortal home!**

**V5, the Holy Spirit was given to seal and indwell and animate the life of believers. The presence of the Spirit is God's sworn pledge that just as the Spirit of Life is now *in* us by the New Birth, we will certainly be translated outwardly in our physical bodies, a fresh 2<sup>nd</sup> New Birth to immortality!**

**V6-9, These verses tell us how we should live now, in these mortal bodies in view of our soon translation!**

**Twice we are told to have, "good courage" (v6,8), and for good reason!**

**And in v9 we are directed to brand new and well warranted purpose in our lives! "To be pleasing to Him." – This is the #1 goal and purpose in this life for the believer.**

**Why? V10! We all (that is, believers, born again ones) must all appear before the bema seat of Christ for reward for the use of our mortal lives in service to Him, until That Day. This is the first event after the rapture for us.**

Rom. 14:10c ... For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD." 12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

The first thing to note is that eternal salvation, one's eternal standing before God as justified in Christ is not in question. Hellfire is not in question. Our sins were paid for on the cross of Christ. What is under evaluation is the conduct and intentions of our life *after we believe and are forgiven and justified*.

1 Cor 3:10-15 – The reward/bema as applied to ministers, then as applied in general to all believers.

The New Testament describes **five different crowns or heavenly rewards Christians may receive**.

**The Victor's crown** – 1 Cor. 9:25-27 – given to those who discipline themselves to focus only on things with the highest eternal value.

**The Crown of Rejoicing** – 1 Thess. 2:19 – given to those who bring others to Christ; this is the soul-winners crown.

**The Crown of Righteousness** – 2 Timothy 4:8 – given to those who long for heaven, and to see the face of Jesus. This is a reward for longing for the rapture!

**The Crown of Life** – Revelation 2:10 – given to those who maintain their love for Christ even while being persecuted.

**The Crown of Glory** – 1 Peter 5:4 – given to those faithful shepherds, pastors, elders, deacons, teachers, and workers who answered the call to be spiritual leaders.

Just as the 24-elders in Rev 4:10 will bow before the Lord, and worship Him, casting their reward crowns before Him, so will we, for we the church represented by them, will, in heaven, regularly recognize it was Christ working through us that accomplished anything of eternal, rewardable value.