

5/20/12

**SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF
A MAN OF GOD, WEEK 20**

TITLE: THE BEMA

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 5:9&10

**INTRODUCTION: (1) ONE OF THE IMPORTANT DOCTRINES
OF THE NEW TESTAMENT IS THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF
CHRIST AND ITS TEACHING ON REWARDS.**

*** SADLY IT IS A DOCTRINE MISUNDERSTOOD AND OFTEN
IGNORED AND WHEN IT IS TAUGHT, THE DOCTRINE IS
MISINTERPRETED BECAUSE OF THE TERM “JUDGMENT”
THAT IS USED IN TRANSLATING THE GREEK TEXT.**

**** COMMENTING ON THIS, SAMUEL HOYT, THE WRITER OF
A BOOK TITLED, “THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST: A
BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDY” SAID AND I WOULD
AGREE WITH THIS PARTICULAR QUOTE, BUT I AM NOT
ENDORING THE ENTIRE BOOK BECAUSE I HAVE NOT
READ IT BUT HE SAID AND I QUOTE:**

***** “WITHIN THE CHURCH TODAY THERE EXISTS
CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AND DEBATE REGARDING
THE EXACT NATURE OF THE EXAMINATION AT THE**

JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST. THE EXPRESSION “THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST” IN THE ENGLISH BIBLE HAS TENDED TO CAUSE SOME TO DRAW THE WRONG CONCLUSION ABOUT THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THIS EVALUATION. A COMMON MISCONCEPTION WHICH ARISES FROM THIS ENGLISH TRANSLATION IS THAT GOD WILL METE OUT A JUST RETRIBUTION FOR SINS IN THE BELIEVER’S LIFE AND SOME MEASURE OF RETRIBUTIVE PUNISHMENT FOR SINS WILL RESULT.” (END QUOTE)

****** NOW ONE OF THE KEYS TO CLEARING UP THE MISUNDERSTANDING AND CONFUSION OF WHAT HAPPENS AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST IS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE WORDS “JUDGMENT SEAT” MEANS IN THE GREEK.**

1. AND FIRST ROMANS 14:10 USES THIS WORD WHERE IT SAYS: “BUT YOU, WHY DO YOU JUDGE YOUR BROTHER? OR YOU AGAIN, WHY DO YOU REGARD YOUR BROTHER WITH CONTEMPT? FOR WE WILL ALL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF GOD.”

*** AND THEN IN OUR TEXT TODAY, JUDGMENT SEAT IS ALSO USED WHERE IT SAYS: (QUOTE IT).**

**** NOW THE TWO WORDS “JUDGMENT SEAT” IN ENGLISH IS ONE GREEK WORD WHICH IS THE WORD BEMA.**

***** AND BEMA IS USED 12 TIMES IN THE N.T.**

****** AND IT BASICALLY DESCRIBES A PLACE REACHED BY STEPS OR A PLATFORM, A RAISED PLATFORM OR PLACE. AND YOU CAN SEE THE PICTURE OF THE ONE AT CORINTH HERE.**

2. AND IT BASICALLY HAS TWO APPLICATIONS IN ITS MEANING.

*** NO. 1 IN THE GOSPELS AND ACTS IT REFERS TO THE RAISED PLATFORM WHERE A ROMAN MAGISTRATE OR RULER SAT TO MAKE DECISIONS AND PASS SENTENCE.**

**** AND THEN NO. 2, IT IS USED BY PAUL TO TALK ABOUT THE RAISED PLATFORM ON WHICH VICTORIOUS ATHLETES RECEIVED THEIR CROWNS, MUCH LIKE THE MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES.**

***** IN FACT, IN THE FIRST CENTURY, THE GREEKS HAD TWO GREAT ATHLETIC FESTIVALS, THE OLYMPIC GAMES AND THE ISTHMIAN GAMES.**

****** AND GUESS WHERE THE ISTHMIAN GAMES WERE HELD?**

3. THE ANSWER IS CORINTH. THEREFORE, THE ISTHMIAN GAMES WERE INTIMATELY FAMILIAR TO THOSE WHOM PAUL IS WRITING TO HERE IN II CORINTHIANS.

*** AND IN THESE GAMES IN CORINTH, THE PRIZE FOR WINNING AN EVENT WAS A PINE WREATH.**

**** AND THAT PINE WREATH REPRESENTED FAME, ACCLAIM AND THE LIFE OF A HERO. WINNERS WERE IMMORTALIZED.**

***** SO THE REWARD FOR WINNING AN EVENT AT THE CORINTHIANS GAMES WAS ASCENDING THE HONOR STAND (THE BEMA) AND RECEIVING A PINE WREATH, WHICH IS ALLUDED TO IN I CORINTHIANS 9:24&25 (QUOTE THEM).**

****** NOW AT THE CORINTHIANS GAMES THE WINNERS WERE GIVEN THE REWARD OF A PERISHABLE WREATH, BUT IN CONTRAST THOSE WHO ASCEND THE BEMA OF CHRIST WILL RECEIVE AN IMPERISHABLE REWARD.**

4. AND THAT'S WHAT THE BEMA IS ALL ABOUT IN II CORINTHIANS 5:10. IT IS THE REWARD STAND, THE HONOR STAND, THE RAISED PLATFORM WHERE JESUS CHRIST THE JUDGE GIVES OUT REWARD FOR WORKS.

*** BELOVED, THE ISSUE AT THE BEMA OF CHRIST IS NOT JUDGMENT OF SIN BUT REWARDS FOR WORKS DONE IN OUR BODIES WHILE ON EARTH, WORKS DONE FOR CHRIST.**

**** AND THAT WILL BE THE THEME I WILL BE DEVELOPING TODAY IN OUR TEXT. TRUE CHRISTIANS DESIRE TO PLEASE THE LORD AND WORK FOR HIM WHILE WE WALK AROUND IN THE CLAY POTS, THE JARS OF CLAY, OUR BODIES WE LIVE IN, IN THIS LIFE.**

***** THUS I'VE TITLED OUR STUDY FOR TODAY, THE BEMA AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH II CORINTHIANS 5:9&10.**

****** AND UNDER THAT TITLE WE'LL LOOK AT TWO POINTS. NO. 1 THE AMBITION, V. 9 AND NO. 2 THE ACCOUNTING, V. 10.**

5. AND WITH THOSE TWO POINTS AS OUR SPIRITUAL G.P.S., LOOK AT V. 9 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE AMBITION.

I. THE AMBITION, (READ V. 9)

A. NOW HERE IN THE BEGINNING OF V. 9, PAUL USES THE WORD THEREFORE OR WHEREFORE OR SO OR SO WHETHER, DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE.

*** AND HE USES THIS CONJUNCTION TO CONNECT US AND TAKE US BACK TO WHAT HE HAS JUST SAID IN VV. 6-8.**

**** AND IN V. 6 PAUL SPOKE OF BEING AT HOME IN THE BODY AND ABSENT FROM THE LORD.**

***** AND THEN IN V. 8 PAUL SPOKE OF HIS PREFERENCE BETWEEN BEING AT HOME IN THE BODY OR ABSENT FROM THE LORD AND SAID IT WAS HIS PREFERENCE TO BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY AND TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD.**

****** WITH THAT SAID, IN V. 9 WE HAVE PAUL'S ULTIMATE DESIRE OR AMBITION OR AIM OR GOAL BEFORE US.**

1. AND THAT IS, WHETHER PAUL IS AT HOME WITH THE LORD OR ABSENT, TO BE IN HIS BODY, IT WAS PAUL'S AMBITION TO BE PLEASING TO THE LORD.

*** AND PAUL HAD NO CONTROL OF WHEN HE WOULD BE AT HOME WITH THE LORD. IT IS TO SAY, HOW LONG HE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE AWAY FROM THE LORD AND BE IN HIS BODY WERE MATTERS ONLY THE LORD GOD COULD DETERMINE.**

**** BUT WHAT PAUL MUST DETERMINE IS HOW HE WILL LIVE IN HIS BODY, HIS TENT.**

***** AND HIS AIM, HIS AMBITION, HIS GOAL, HIS PASSION WAS TO BE PLEASING TO THE LORD.**

****** SO WHETHER THERE OR HERE, PAUL SAID WE MAKE IT OUR GOAL TO PLEASE THE LORD.**

2. AND BELOVED, WHAT A HOLY AMBITION. WHAT A HOLY PASSION AND GOAL.

*** PHILIP E. HUGHES WRITES ABOUT THIS PURE RIGHT AMBITION IN HIS COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS SUMMING UP II CORINTHIANS 5:9 AND SAYS AND I QUOTE:**

**** “WHEREFORE” – THAT IS, BECAUSE OF HIS (PAUL’S) DESIRE TO BE WITH THE LORD – IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT PAUL SHOULD ALSO WISH TO LIVE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PLEASE HIM. THIS, INDEED, IS HIS CONSUMING AMBITION, THE MOTIVE FORCE BEHIND ALL THAT HE DOES. TO BE WELL-PLEASING TO CHRIST IS, INDEED, THE SUM OF ALL AMBITION WHICH IS TRULY CHRISTIAN. IN ARRESTING CONTRAST TO THE AMBITION OF THIS WORLD, IT IS CENTERED, NOT ON SELF, BUT ON THE SAVIOR; ITS GOAL IS TO PLEASE HIM.” (END QUOTE)**

***** AND BELOVED, WHAT A HOLY PASSION AND PURPOSE.**

***** I MEAN AS A CHRISTIAN, IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A SHORT PHRASE THAT COMMUNICATES YOUR PURPOSE STATEMENT OF LIFE, IT COULD BE “I LIVE TO PLEASE CHRIST!”**

****** AND THE HIGHEST AND NOBLEST AMBITION TO WHICH A CHRISTIAN CAN ASPIRE IS TO BE PLEASING TO THE LORD.**

3. AND THE APOSTLE PAUL USED THE ADJECTIVE TRANSLATED PLEASING OR ACCEPTABLE IN SEVERAL OTHER PLACES IN HIS INSPIRED WRITINGS.

*** FOR EXAMPLE IN ROMANS 12:1&2 AND ROMANS 14:18, HE USED THIS WORD TO SPEAK OF BEHAVIOR THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO GOD AND ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR, IN ROMANS 12:1 TO PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING AND HOLY SACRIFICE TO THE LORD AND NOT BE CONFORMED TO THE WORLD IN ROMANS 12:2.**

**** AND THEN PAUL URGED THE EPHESIANS IN EPHESIANS 5:10 TO TRY “TO LEARN WHAT IS PLEASING TO THE LORD.”**

***** IN COLOSSIANS 3:20, PAUL NOTED THAT CHILDREN’S OBEDIENCE TO THEIR PARENTS IS “WELL-PLEASING TO THE LORD.”**

****** IN TITUS 2:9 THE WORD IS USED WHERE IT EXHORTS SLAVES TO BE WELL-PLEASING TO THEIR MASTERS AND IN ESSENCE LIVE IN A WAY THAT MAKES ATTRACTIVE THE TEACHING THAT GOD SAVES SINNERS.**

4. AND THEN IN COLOSSIANS 1:10 WE ARE TO LIVE IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THE LORD, PLEASING HIM IN EVERYTHING.

*** SO THE BOTTOM LINE FOR A FOLLOWER OF JESUS IS WE SHOULD LIVE TO PLEASE THE LORD.**

**** THAT SHOULD BE OUR GOAL, OUR AIM, OUR PASSION, OUR AMBITION.**

***** AND WHAT A WORTHY HOLY AMBITION IT IS AND TO HELP US AND TO MOTIVATE THIS AMBITION, WE MUST REALIZE THERE IS AN ACCOUNTING TO THE LORD ONE DAY, CALLED THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST. LOOK AT V. 10 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE ACCOUNTING.**

II. THE ACCOUNTING, (READ V. 10)

A. NOW DRIVING PAUL'S HOLY AMBITION AND AIM TO PLEASE THE LORD WAS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THERE WOULD BE AN ACCOUNTING BEFORE THE LORD ONE DAY OF HIS WORKS FOR THE LORD.

*** AND THAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FUTURE AFTER THE RETURN OF CHRIST IN THE AIR WHERE BELIEVERS MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.**

**** FOR THE TIMING OF THIS JUDGMENT IS TIED TO THE COMING OF CHRIST IN MATTHEW 16:27 AND REVELATION 22:12 (QUOTE THEM)**

***** AND IT APPEARS TO BE THAT BELIEVERS WILL BE AT THIS ACCOUNTING BETWEEN THE RAPTURE AND REVELATION, WHEN THE CHURCH IS WITH CHRIST IN HEAVEN DURING THE SEVEN YEAR TRIBULATION ON EARTH.**

****** NOW THE QUESTION COMES UP AT THIS POINT, WHO WILL BE AT THE BEMA SEAT? WHO WILL BE JUDGED?**

1. WELL, LOOK BACK AT II CORINTHIANS 5 AND ITS CONTEXT. IN VV. 1&2 THOSE WHO HAVE GLORIFIED BODIES IN HEAVEN.

*** IN V. 5, THOSE WHO HAVE THE DEPOSIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLING WITHIN THEM.**

**** IN V. 7, THOSE WHO WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT.**

***** IN V. 8, THOSE WHOM WOULD RATHER BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY AND TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD.**

****** THEN V. 9, THOSE WHO DESIRE TO BE PLEASING TO THE LORD.**

2. AND WHEN YOU PUT ALL THOSE VERSES TOGETHER THE OBVIOUS ANSWER IS BELIEVERS.

*** AND THEN TO WHOM IS PAUL WRITING TO IN THE BOOK OF II CORINTHIANS?**

**** WELL TO THE CHURCH AT CORINTH – CHRISTIANS.**

***** AND THEN, TO WHOM IS THE “WE” IN V. 10, “FOR WE”?**

****** WELL, PAUL AND HIS ASSOCIATES, HIS CO-LABORERS, MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL – BELIEVERS.**

3. THEREFORE “WE” IS TALKING ABOUT BELIEVERS, AND “ALL” CONTEXTUALLY IS TALKING ABOUT BELIEVERS, “FOR WE MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.”

*** SO THIS IS A JUDGMENT FOR BELIEVERS, WHEREAS THE JUDGMENT OF UNBELIEVERS, THE UNSAVED TAKES PLACE IN REVELATION 20:11-15, WHAT IS CALLED THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT AS UNBELIEVERS WILL BE CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE.**

**** SO THE BEMA SEAT IS A JUDGMENT FOR BELIEVERS ONLY.**

***** AND WE MUST ALL, ALL BELIEVERS APPEAR AT THE BEMA. AND THE VERB APPEAR LIT. MEANS TO MAKE MANIFEST, TO MAKE VISIBLE, TO REVEAL, TO MAKE CLEAR.**

****** AND COMMENTING ON THIS GREEK WORD IN HIS COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS, PHILIP E. HUGHES SAID AND I QUOTE: “TO BE MADE MANIFEST MEANS NOT JUST TO APPEAR, BUT TO BE LAID BARE, STRIPPED OF EVERY OUTWARD FACADE OF RESPECTABILITY, AND OPENLY REVEALED IN THE FULL AND TRUE REALITY OF ONE’S CHARACTER.” (END QUOTE)**

5. SO ALL FOLLOWERS OF JESUS WILL BE AT THIS JUDGMENT, WE WILL ALL APPEAR AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST, THE BEMA, THE RAISED PLATFORM, THE HONOR STAND THAT WE WILL ASCEND AS BELIEVERS WILL BE REWARDED.

*** AND LET ME CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THIS AS WE MOVE ON IN THIS VERSE FOR WE MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE THE BEMA, “SO THAT EACH ONE”.**

**** AND THE PHRASE “EACH ONE” COMMUNICATES AND STRESSES THE PERSONAL NATURE OF A CHRISTIAN’S**

JUDGMENT; IT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, NOT A COLLECTIVE CORPORATE JUDGMENT.

***** WE WILL NOT BE JUDGED IN MASS OR IN CLASSES, BUT ONE BY ONE, AS PAUL SAID IN ROMANS 14:12 TALKING ABOUT THE BEMA (QUOTE IT).**

****** SO THE BEMA IS AN INDIVIDUAL JUDGMENT FOR BELIEVERS FOR THEIR WORKS FOR REWARDS.**

6. FOR NOTICE THE VERB RECOMPENSED OR RECEIVED IN V. 10 DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE, AND THIS VERB LIT. MEANS TO RECEIVE BACK WHAT IS DUE, AND IN THIS CONTEXT, FOR REWARD FOR ONE TO BE HONORED.

*** FOR AGAIN REMEMBER THE BEMA IN PAUL'S MIND IN II CORINTHIANS 5 IS AN HONOR STAND THAT ATHLETES ASCEND AND ARE REWARDED IN THE ISTHMIAN GAMES AT CORINTH.**

**** AND WHEN TRUE BELIEVERS STAND BEFORE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST THEY WILL BE RECOMPENSED FOR THE DEEDS THEY HAVE DONE IN THE BODY AS WE MOVE ON IN V. 10.**

***** AND WORKS FOR OUR LORD ARE DONE WHILE WE ARE ALIVE IN OUR BODIES, AND WHEN WE DIE, OUR WORKS FOLLOW US, QUOTE REVELATION 14:13.**

****** AND THE WORD BODY AND METAPHORS FOR THE WORD BODY HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN A THEME OF PAUL IN II CORINTHIANS 4&5 CALLING THE BODY A CLAY POT, A JAR OF CLAY, A TENT, CLOTHING AND A HOUSE MADE WITH HANDS.**

7. AND TO BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY IS TO BE PRESENT WITH THE LORD. AND WHEN WE ARE PRESENT WITH THE LORD, OUR LABORS FOR CHRIST ARE OVER, FOR THE REST OF ETERNITY IT WILL BE CONTINUAL WORSHIP OF OUR GREAT GOD AND THE LAMB WHO WAS SLAIN.

8. SO THE TIME TO WORK FOR CHRIST IS NOW AND OUR LABOR IS NEVER IN VAIN, DONE OUT OF LOVE OF CHRIST, QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 15:58. ALSO QUOTE JOHN 9:4.

*** NOW DEEDS OR WORKS DONE IN THE BODY WILL BE REWARDED, WHEN THEY ARE GOOD WORKS. WHICH LEADS US TO THE END OF V. 10, ACCORDING TO WHAT HE OR SHE HAS DONE IN THE BODY, OR DEEDS, OR WORKS, WHETHER GOOD OR BAD.**

**** AND THE USE OF THE WORD BAD HERE DOES NOT COMMUNICATE OR INDICATE THAT A BELIEVER'S**

JUDGMENT IS A JUDGMENT FOR SIN, FOR ALL OF OUR SINS HAVE ALREADY BEEN JUDGED ON THE CROSS OF CHRIST.

***** FOR BELIEVER, EVERY SIN OF EVERY BELIEVER WAS JUDGED AT THE CROSS, WHERE GOD THE FATHER HAD JESUS BECOME SIN FOR US, QUOTE II CORINTHIANS 5:21, THE LAST VERSE OF THE CHAPTER.**

****** AND JESUS CHRIST AS OUR SUBSTITUTE BORE OUR SIN, QUOTE I PETER 2:24. ALSO QUOTE ROMANS 5:1, ROMANS 8:1, HEBREWS 10:12, EPHESIANS 4:32 AND I JOHN 2:1&2.**

9. NOW BROTHERS AND SISTERS, ALL OF OUR SINS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN AS CHRIST BORE OUR JUDGMENT WHEN HE DIED FOR OUR SINS. SO WE WILL NOT BE JUDGED FOR SIN AT THE BEMA.

*** SO WHAT ARE WE JUDGED FOR? OUR GOOD AND BAD WORKS. FOR THE WORD BAD IN II CORINTHIANS 5:10 AT THE END HAS TO DO WITH WHAT IS USELESS OR WORTHLESS. SO WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT MORAL EVIL, OR MORAL BAD, BUT WHY DID WE DO WHAT WE DID FOR CHRIST.**

**** WHAT WAS OUR MOTIVE TO BE SEEN OF MAN, FOR THE PAT ON THE BACK, FOR GAIN?**

**** OR WERE OUR WORKS DONE OUT OF LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST AND FOR HIS GLORY?**

****** THE MOTIVES OF OUR WORKS WILL BE JUDGED, AND THAT WHICH WAS DONE FOR GOD'S GLORY IS GOOD AND WE WILL BE REWARDED.**

10. AND POSSIBLY THE CLEAREST DEFINITION OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOOD AND BAD (WORTHLESS WORKS) IS FOUND IN I CORINTHIANS 3:11-15 WHICH GREG READ TO YOU EARLIER.

*** THIS TEXT SAYS:**

V. 11 – FOR NO MAN CAN LAY A FOUNDATION OTHER THAN THE ONE WHICH IS LAID, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST. (ACTS 4:12)

V. 12 – NOW IF ANY MAN BUILDS ON THE FOUNDATION WITH GOLD, SILVER, PRECIOUS STONES, WOOD, HAY, STRAW,

V. 13 – EACH MAN'S WORK WILL BECOME EVIDENT; FOR THE DAY WILL SHOW IT BECAUSE IT IS TO BE REVEALED WITH FIRE, AND THE FIRE ITSELF WILL TEST THE QUALITY OF EACH MAN'S WORK.

V. 14 – IF ANY MAN’S WORK WHICH HE HAS BUILT ON IT REMAINS, HE WILL RECEIVE A REWARD.

V. 15 – IF ANY MAN’S WORK IS BURNED UP, HE WILL SUFFER LOSS; BUT HE HIMSELF WILL BE SAVED, YET SO AS THROUGH FIRE.

**** NOW THE BAD WORKS ARE WOOD, HAY AND STUBBLE, DONE FOR WRONG REASONS AND THEY ARE JUDGED BY THE FIRE OF THE LORD, MOST LIKELY CHRIST’S EYES OF FIRE THAT SEES EVERYTHING AND WHY THEY WERE DONE. AND NO REWARD FOR THEM (THE ARE COMBUSTIBLE.)**

***** BUT WORKS THAT ARE GOLD, SILVER AND PRECIOUS STONES ARE VALUABLE, PERMANENT AND INDESTRUCTIBLE AND WILL SURVIVE THE FIRE OF JUDGMENT AND WILL RECEIVE REWARD.**

AND IN WRAP UP: (1) BELIEVERS WILL ONLY BE REWARDED FOR DEEDS – WORKS WITH MOTIVES THAT PLEASE AND GLORIFY THE LORD.

*** AND NOTE THAT CONTEXTUALLY IN II CORINTHIANS 5, PAUL’S LONGING FOR HEAVEN AND TO BE WITH GOD AND RECEIVE A NEW BODY, DID NOT CAUSE HIM TO ACT IRRESPONSIBLY OR UNFAITHFULLY HERE ON EARTH.**

**** FOR HE KNEW WE MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE THE BEMA. AND THE WORD MUST, MEANS THIS IS NOT OPTIONAL, BUT DECREED BY GOD, IT IS DIVINELY ORDAINED AND UNAVOIDABLE.**

***** SO ONE DAY, EVERY BELIEVER WILL STAND BEFORE THE BEMA SEAT OF CHRIST.**

****** AND EVERY BELIEVER'S WORKS WILL BE JUDGED WHICH TELLS US TRUE BELIEVERS WORK FOR THE LORD.**

(2) I MEAN WE DON'T WORK TO BE SAVED, BUT WORK BECAUSE WE ARE SAVED. WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH ALONE, BUT A FAITH THAT SAVES IS NEVER ALONE, QUOTE JAMES 2:26.

*** AND A PERSON WHO SAYS THEY ARE SAVED BUT HAS NO WORKS NEED TO EXAMINE THEMSELVES WHETHER THEY ARE IN THE FAITH, II CORINTHIANS 13:5.**

**** AND FOLKS, MARK THIS DOWN, TRUE BELIEVERS WANT TO PLEASE THE LORD. NOW DO WE ALWAYS PLEASE THE LORD?**

***** THE ANSWER IS NO BUT IS THAT OUR AMBITION AND AIM AND DESIRE? YES.**

****** SO HOPEFULLY THESE QUESTIONS WILL BRING COMFORT AND ASSURANCE OR EXAMINATION WHETHER WE TRULY KNOW JESUS CHRIST.**

(3) TRUE BELIEVER, THE BEMA IS AHEAD. MAY WE BY FAITH WORK FOR OUR LORD WHILE IT IS DAY AS WE ARE IN THIS BODY. AND MAY OUR MOTIVE FOR OBEDIENCE AND SERVICE BE OUT OF LOVE FOR OUR SAVIOR FOR HIS GLORY. AND MAY WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY IN HEAVEN, WANTING TO HEAR FROM OUR MASTER, WELL DONE THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT AS WE CAST OUR CROWNS AND REWARDS BEFORE THE ONE WHO SITS ON THE THRONE. (LET'S PRAY)