

## **The Bema** The Reward Seat of Christ

- I.** The Bema, “Judgment Seat of Christ” KJV (2 Cor. 5:10).
1. The term “bema” has the idea of a tribunal where official judgments are made. It was usually a raised platform, a dais. It was used of where Pilot and Caesar made decisions. In contemporary writing it was used of the reward stand at the games: a place of judgment.
  2. We will all be there.
  3. Each individual’s character will be made clear.
  4. Each individual will receive, as recompense (this term for “receive” comes from “take care of, kindly keep” and in the New Testament is almost always used in a positive manner (Eph 6:8).
  5. The things done through the unglorified body will be what is scrutinized.
  6. The focus will be on what the person practiced.
  7. The judgment will be if the activities pleased God or was worthless.
  8. Works are judged, not the person.
- II.** The Reward Seat of Christ occurs between our meeting Christ in the air and entrance into the Third Heaven (1 Thes. 4:17; 2 Thes. 2:1 *cf.* 1 Thes. 3:13; Eph. 5:27).
1. When our bodies are glorified, still the ramifications of our previous actions must be dealt with.
  2. However, when we reach the Third Heaven, we will be absolutely faultless, with out spot or wrinkle.
  3. The Bema purifies, by fire, all the remaining dross from our former life.