

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

The Bema Seat, Part 1
Pastor Miles McPherson
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Small Group Ministry Presents *Imagineering* - *Imagineering* is about dreaming and building. Come find out what we're doing this year in small groups and how you can be a part of it. Details: Friday, March 9, 7:30-9:30 PM, in the Rock Sanctuary. Childcare is available. Sign up online at www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar or contact Andy at andy@therocksandiego.org or 858.268.1366 x2012.

Prison Ministry needs letters of love and support and home-baked cookies for the upcoming Kairos Outreach Weekend at Donovan State Prison. Bring your letters and cookies to the back of the Sanctuary. For more information contact Roger at 619.813.6188.

Want to laugh with your small group? Consider going to the Rock Comedy Night with Comedian Tim Hawkins, Friday, February 23, 7:30 PM in the Rock Sanctuary. Cost: Free!

For all other Rock events, please go <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/>.

MEMORY VERSE

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS - FINGERPRINT EVIDENCE

I don't know about you, but "judgment" is one of those biblical words that leaves me with an uneasy feeling. When I think of court room images where I'm the defendant and my life is the subject of the case, frankly I just hold my breath and try to think about anything else. Yet, the fact remains that the Bible is clear that all Christ followers will have their lives examined and give an account to God.

What seems to intensify our fears (if I can speak for the majority of Christians) is our understanding of earthly court appearances. In our culture it's easy to imagine a prosecuting attorney badgering the witness until guilt is openly confessed. Earthly courts judge for guilt or innocence, and decide punishment.

However, the court room scene described in 1 Corinthians 3:13-15 and 2 Corinthians 5:10 is radically different. Since we are already declared righteous through Christ, this examination is for the expressed purpose of receiving rewards, blessings and refinement.

Getting Started

1. Take time to talk about what you think heaven is like. Can you use scripture to back up your thoughts on this?

2. On a scale of 1-10 (ten being greatest), how does the promise of heaven affect your present reality?

Digging Deeper

3. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-15. What's the difference between respecting a Christian leader and the problem that Paul deals with here?

4. If you could describe your spiritual condition as a building, what kind of building would it be? A cathedral? A health club? A junkyard? A library? A skyscraper? Why did you choose this kind of structure?

5. What do you think Paul means by being careful about the building materials? What kind of actions in this life would cause one to use building materials made of straw? Costly gems?

6. Paul tells us that the Christians whose buildings survive will receive a reward. What kind of reward do you think faithful Christians will receive? Does the promise of rewards motivate you to build more faithfully?

7. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 10:31, and Romans 14:22. How does living by faith come into play when it comes to building on Christ's foundation?

8. The Bible speaks about rewards for believers in the form of "crowns." Take a look at the following passages:
 - a. The Crown of Righteousness (for those who are His) - 2 Timothy 4:7-8

 - b. The Incorruptible Crown - 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

 - c. The Crown of Life (martyr's crown) - Revelation 2:10

 - d. The Crown of Glory (the shepherd's crown) - 1 Peter 5:2-4

 - e. The Crown of Rejoicing - 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

 - f. How do these rewards inspire you to live for heaven?

Bringing it Home

Read Matthew 6:19-24. In this verse, Jesus "bottom lines it" when it comes to living for earthly treasures versus living for heavenly rewards. He tells us that we can't serve two masters.

9. Why is it so easy to neglect the important things in life?

10. What priorities would have to change in your life if you were going to start sending up to heaven precious building materials?

11. What could be your first step toward this goal? How can we (your small group) help you?