**Why does Christ Judge the Spiritually Saved and What does He Judge?**

[Note: Salvation is composed of three aspects/facets: **Spiritual** salvation, **Body** salvation and **Soul** salvation. The following commentary does not include salvation of the Body which occurs at the Rapture.]

But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. ([1 Corinthians 15:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+15.23&t=NKJV))

Bear one thing in mind about judgment. **No man [saved or unsaved] will ever appear in judgment to determine his eternal salvation [of the spiritual aspect of salvation] or eternal damnation.** The question surrounding eternal salvation of the spirit is always taken care of **before** man enters into judgment, and this matter will **not be an issue** at any future judgment. Every man will be resurrected “in his own order [‘in his own company’ (whether a company of [spiritually] saved individuals, or a company of unsaved individuals)]”, and every man will be judged in the company in which he is resurrected. ~Arlen Chitwood

**Once spiritually saved, always spiritually saved:**

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ([John 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+3.16&t=NKJV))

For by one Spirit we were all baptized [reborn] into one body [body of Christ]—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into [partake of] one Spirit." ([1 Corinthians 12:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+12.13&t=NKJV))

The **baptism** by the Holy Spirit is the work of the Spirit which incorporates the **believer's spirit** into the body of Christ ([1 Corinthians 2:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+2.13&t=NKJV)). Our spirit is reborn into the body of Christ. By this spiritual birth we receive spiritual salvation, becoming His children—a relationship that can **never be changed** since a birth can never be undone. This new birth also makes us a **new creation**, a new creature that **cannot go back** to being the old creature ever again. A butterfly after emerging from the cocoon cannot return to being a caterpillar. Also once a man has been spiritually saved, God never deals with him on the basis of his eternal salvation again. To do so, God would have to go back and deal with His Son’s finished work — an impossibility. In other words, once spiritually saved, always spiritually saved.  **Eternity in heaven is guaranteed!**

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ([Romans 8:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.16&t=NKJV))

and if children, ***heirs*** also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, ***if*** indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also ***be glorified with Him***. ([Romans 8:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.17&t=NKJV))

Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. ([Galatians 4:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+4.7&t=NKJV))

God's **reward** to the **spiritually saved** is **His** becoming their **inheritance**. Or as Paul puts it, “heirs of God".

**The rapture:**

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead ***in Christ*** will rise first. ([1 Thessalonians 4:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+4.16&t=NKJV))

Then we [spiritually saved (in Christ)] who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall ***always be with the Lord***. ([1 Thessalonians 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+4.17&t=NKJV))

This removal of the **spiritually** saved from the earth is commonly called “the rapture" and includes **all** Christians, **faithful** and **unfaithful** alike.

The Lord Himself is seen descending from heaven, though not coming all the way to the earth. Christ, after descending to a place above the earth, will “shout [lit., ‘issue a command’].” The voice of the archangel (Michael) will sound, and a trumpet will be blown.

Resulting from Christ’s command, the **spiritually saved dead** [first death]will be **raised**. Christ, Who is “the resurrection, and the life” ([John 11:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+11.25&t=NKJV)), must be present to give the command in order for the dead to be raised (cf. [John 5:28-29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+5.28-29&t=NKJV); [11:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+11.25&t=NKJV), [43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+11.43&t=NKJV)).

Then, **living spiritually saved** [in Christ] will **die** [first death - instantaneously with being caught up] and be **caught up** [raptured] together with resurrected [dead] believers [spiritually saved] to **meet** the Lord in the air and **taken** to the Judgment Seat. [Keep in mind that the spiritually saved's **spirit is saved before the rapture**, but **not his/her soul**.]

For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation [soul] through our Lord Jesus Christ, ([1 Thessalonians 5:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+5.9&t=NKJV))

[1 Thessalonians 5:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+5.1ff&t=NKJV) clearly shows that the rapture ([1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+4.13-18&t=NKJV)) will include **all Christians** [spiritually saved], both **faithful and unfaithful**. Both are seen together at the judgment seat with **faithful** Christians experiencing “**soul** salvation” and **unfaithful** Christians experiencing “sudden destruction,” “wrath” ([1 Thessalonians 5:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+5.3&t=NKJV), [9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+5.9&t=NKJV)).

Those raptured have **already** received spiritual salvation through God's grace! The salvation **referenced** in [1 Thessalonians 5:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Thessalonians+5.9&t=NKJV) logically has to be an **additional aspect of salvation**, and **that aspect is called soul salvation**.

**Judgment:**

So why a judgment after the rapture? Obviously not to determine which of the spiritually saved go to heaven.

“For we must ***all*** [spiritually saved] appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that ***every one*** [spiritually saved] may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be ***good*** or ***bad***. ([2 Corinthians 5:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+5.10&t=NKJV))

Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord [Where? Note the context. This terror occurs at the judgment seat (cf. [Hebrews 10:30-31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+10.30-31&t=NKJV))], we persuade men…” ([2 Corinthians 5:11a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+5.11a&t=NKJV))

The division of Christians [those spiritually saved] into faithful or unfaithful, according to Scripture, occurs at the judgment seat following the removal [rapture] of all the spiritually saved from the earth [just prior to the tribulation].

[Keep in mind that this judgment is of all the spiritually saved, not the unsaved who will be judged at the Great White Throne at the end of the millennium before eternity.]

**Conclusion:**

The believers' [saved] initial aspect of salvation [spiritual] occurs when their spirit is regenerated [born again] and the Holy Spirit enters and becomes one with their spirit, commonly referred to as salvation of the spirit.

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be [abide] with you forever; ([John 14:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+14.16&t=NKJV))

that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be ***in you***. ([John 14:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+14.17&t=NKJV))

But obviously there is **another element** of salvation awaiting some of the spiritually saved at the Judgment Seat.

This awaiting aspect of salvation is **not** a **gift** like salvation of the **spirit**. It is based on **works of faith** which can only be produced by the Holy Spirit **working through us** after we have received salvation of the **spirit**. It can be **lost**. It is not assured, but must be “worked out” over the **lifetime** of the spiritually saved.

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, ***work out*** your salvation with fear and trembling; ([Philippians 2:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+2.12&t=NKJV))

for it is God who is at work in you both to will and to work, for His good pleasure. ([Philippians 2:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+2.13&t=NKJV))

This aspect of **total** salvation is referred to as salvation of the **soul**. The saved soul will be granted **reward**. The soul **not saved** will suffer **loss** — but **not** the **loss** of eternity in heaven.

So what are these rewards for the saved soul?

If we ***endure***, we will also ***reign*** with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; ([2 Timothy 2:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+2.12&t=NKJV))

and if children, ***heirs*** also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be ***glorified*** with Him. ([Romans 8:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.17&t=NKJV))

[As previously stated in regards to salvation of the spirit, all the spiritually saved are rewarded with God becoming their inheritance.]

The reward awaiting the spiritually saved, who are **qualified** to assume **greater** responsibility, is being **chosen** as **heirs** of the kingdom and **joint-heirs with the Messiah in the Millennial Kingdom**. The qualified [for the inheritance] will receive **soul** salvation and **will rule and reign with Christ in the future Millennium Kingdom** [1,000 years] that commences immediately after the tribulation.

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See [Confusion about Salvation](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-two.php#Confusion%20about%20Salvation) in this site.

**For additional information on Salvation of the Soul and the Millennial Kingdom:**

Mark and Carol Miller: [Key of Three / Hope of Glory by Mark and Carol Miller](http://www.mylifeministries.org/keyofthree/) and [The Hope of Glory by Mark and Carol Miller](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/hope-of-glory-by-mark-and-carol-miller.php)

Arlen Chitwood: [Lamp Broadcast by Arlen Chitwood](http://lampbroadcast.org/index.html) and [Bible One - Arlen Chitwood's Judgment Seat of Christ, Sheep and Goats are Metaphors, Ch. 6](http://bibleone.net/JSC06.htm)

Also see [To Be Hurt By . . . . and Sheep and Goats](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-also.php#To%20Be%20Hurt%20By%20.%20.%20.%20.%20and%20Sheep%20and%20Goats) in this website.

Charles Strong: [Bible One by Charles Strong](http://www.bibleone.net/) and [Bible One - Charles Strong's Your Coming Judgment](http://www.bibleone.net/Your-Coming-Judgment.htm)

Gary Whipple: [Bible One - Gary Whipple's Beyond the Rapture](http://www.bibleone.net/BeyondtheRapture.pdf) is available for purchase at [Gary Whipple's Books - Schoettle Publishing](http://www.schoettlepublishing.com/catalog/whipple.htm)**.**]

**Sources for this commentary:**

The above links plus:

e-Sword: [e-Sword by Rick Myers](http://www.e-sword.net/) where Rick's free software can be downloaded.

BBC: [e-Sword Downloads](http://www.e-sword.net/downloads.html)