

Date: 13 September 2020
Speaker: Pr James Tan
Topic: Ready to Stand the Test?
Scripture text: 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

1. At the end of our lives, we will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ to account for the work we have done on this earth. We can only qualify for the test if we have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. Apostle Paul used an illustration of a building to describe a Christian's life. The foundation of our lives are laid upon Jesus Christ and all our actions, thoughts and motives must be constrained by the love of Christ. Salvation is of the Lord and only God is able to lay the foundation of Christ in a person's life. Without the Lord Jesus Christ, the basis of our actions are for self-satisfaction, which will come to an end upon death.

2. A Christian has been saved from sin to serve his Master. Truly born again believers will have to stand before Christ individually to account for our lives on this earth. The test is about the quality of our labour on this earth, rather than the quantity. This is a judgment of reward, rather than of destruction. Apostle Paul had to address the Corinthian church as they have lost sight that God would examine their lives.

3. Apostle Paul was using an illustration of a building being burned by fire. A building made of gold, silver and precious stones would stand the test, whereas those made of wood, hay and stubble would be wholly consumed. When our lives are put to the test, what will God's evaluation be? May all our thoughts, labour and motives be acceptable in the Lord's sight and for His glory.

4. God remembers and abundantly rewards His servants who serve with the right motives and ways. A Christian who serves without the right motives and ways will stand before the Lord empty handed, without rewards. May our lives count for the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave His life to save us. There are heavenly rewards for those who serve faithfully, honestly and for the love of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 "Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."