

Salvation is by grace. Due to the work of Jesus on the Cross. Nothing we can do.  
Galatians. 1:6, 2:16

What did Jesus do to save us? He took the place of the sacrifice by being the sacrifice.  
Heb 9:11-28

We find in 9:27-28 that He only needed to do this once, for everyone, and that after this is the judgment. This implies that first, when Jesus comes back the last time, it will not be to save people – people are saved by what they believed in this life on earth. He has already given us the choice. We have all heard it a thousand times. If we still don't get it, he isn't going to continue. So in the end, Jesus will come back to Judge.

What does this mean? Gen 18:25 – God will Judge us rightly.  
Ps 96:13 – He judges rightly and in truth and He judges the earth (or all people)  
Rom 3:5-6 – We want God to judge by our standards but if he did, how can he judge the world?

1 Pet 4:17 – Peter implies that Christians will be judged first, then unbelievers and that the judgment of nonbelievers will be hard

SO far, we have seen that salvation is from God through Jesus but that Everyone will be judged. God will judge rightly, not by our standards and there will be a judgment of believers and non-believers, which re-emphasizes the fact that judgment is not about salvation because the question of salvation needs to already be answered prior to the judgment so that people are judged at the proper time.

So if judgment is not for salvation, then what are we judged on?  
Eccl 12:14 – God will judge every deed – good and evil  
Mt 12:36 – We will be judged by what we said (teachers beware!)  
Mt 16:27 – Jesus will judge according to what was done  
Rom 2:5-6 – God will judge on what we have done  
1 Cor 3:10-15 – Our works will be judged, not our salvation

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We are judged on what we've said and what we've done - good and bad. Then we are rewarded based on these things.

How are Christians judged differently than non-Christians? We are judged by Christ first. (1 Peter 4:17) There will come a day when Jesus is ready to judge his church. The church will be taken away from the non-believers and the church age will officially be over. God has stopped dealing with Israel since He came to earth and was rejected by them. So he has spent this time building his church and his kingdom through all nations, as he said he would in the OT – that all nations would be blessed through Abraham.

When the Church is gone, then God will again deal with Israel and continue the countdown and the promises that He had given in the OT.

When the Church is taken, it is at that time that we are judged, separately from the non-believers. Throughout the Bible, we read of times when Judgment will be great and other times when judgment will be awful. How can judgment be both? Careful study shows that there are two judgments. The first, is typically called the Bema Seat Judgment of Christ.

2 Cor 5:10. – Paul is speaking to Christians. He says we will all come to the Bema of Christ. He will judge our deeds. This is not a judgment of sins - as Christians, we have had ALL our sins forgiven by the blood of Christ. This is purely regarding deeds, our use of the gifts God has given us.

Rev 2:23 – Jesus will reward us based on our deeds. Again, he is talking to the church

1 Cor 4:5 – We will be rewarded with God’s praises. (Paul is talking to the Corinthian church) – we will only be judged when the Lord returns, not when we die.

2 Tim 4:8 – We will all receive crowns of righteousness, because we were made righteous by the blood of Jesus.

So the Bema seat judgment gives rewards based on deeds (were we good stewards – gifts, time, talent, money, opportunities, etc) and crowns us all as His.

SO what about non-believers

Psalm 7:6-13 – God’s wrath is against the enemies of His people

Psalm 9:3-5 – God destroys forever the enemies of His people

Psalm 110:5-6 – God will judge the nations and crush the rulers

Isaiah 11:4 – He will slay the wicked

Ezekiel 7:3-4 – He will repay the wicked for their deeds and will not spare them

Luke 19:26 – parable of ten minas – even what they had is taken and they are killed because they did not want him to be king over them

John 12:48 – the one who rejects Jesus will be condemned at the last day

Rev 20:11-15 – the second judgment – The Great White Throne. This is the scene at the last days for those who choose not to believe.

We don’t have to worry about where we will spend eternity. Our salvation has determined that we are to spend eternity with God and this salvation is of God, by His grace because He loved us, not based on anything we did. Because we can never be good enough. God needs us to be perfect. But “Nobody’s perfect”, so nobody’s going in. Except, that God allowed us to become perfect by dying on the cross and being our sacrifice. Now all we have to do is accept that. Without accepting His sacrifice, we cannot enter His kingdom, no matter how good we are, because it will never be good enough.

So since we here have accepted Christ as our savior, we no longer worry about where we will spend eternity, but how we will spend it. Are we storing up our treasures in heaven or on earth? Will our deeds stand up to the test of fire or will they burn up? Let’s not live for the treasures of this earth life, but recognize that we are ambassadors for Christ on this world. An ambassador lives in one country but is part of another. He stands for

the rights of the country he is from. He represents his country in a foreign land. We should not get bogged down in this foreign land, but let us always remember that we are living for another.

And let us reach out to those who are not believers. If we truly have Christ in us, then do we have the love of Christ as well? God desires that no one should perish. If He desires it and He lives in us, then should we not desire it also? See what the end brings for those people. Do not fear that they will embarrass or rebuke you. When you stand before Christ on His bema Seat, he will recognize your deed and you will be rewarded for that! Love someone enough to bring them out of everlasting death and into life.