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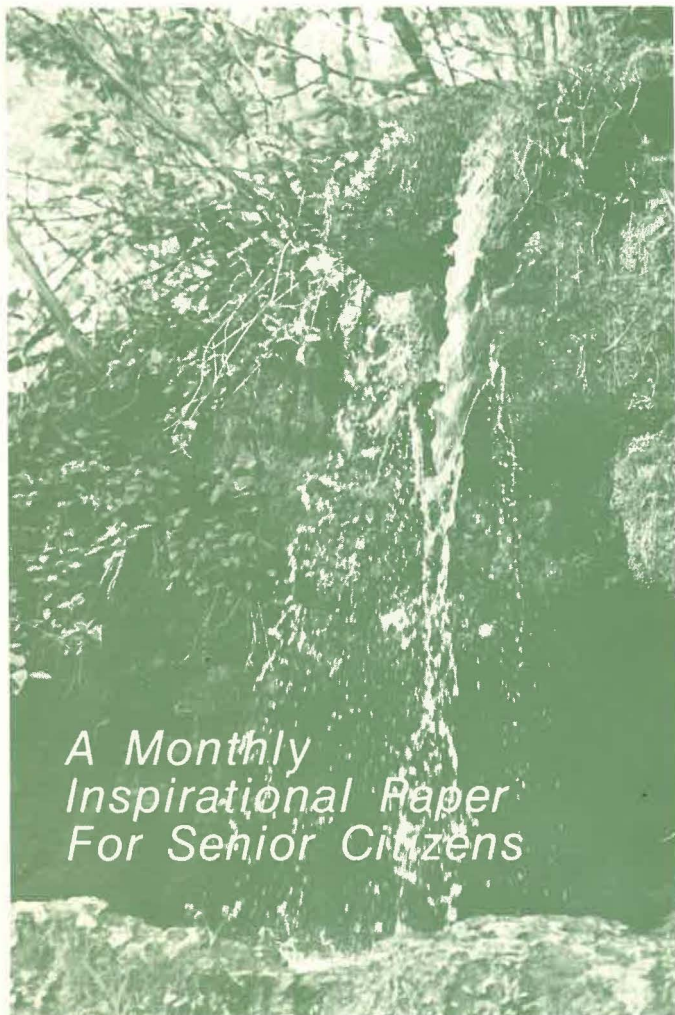
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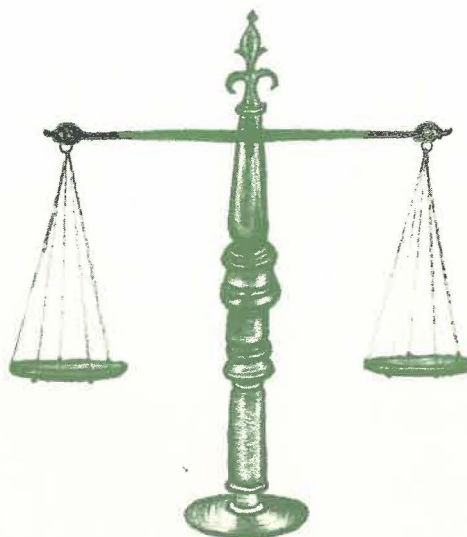


*A Monthly
Inspirational Paper
For Senior Citizens*

APRIL 1979

The Judgment Seat of Christ

by
Dr. Leman Strauss



Part II

“But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ,” (Romans 14:10).

Twice in the New Testament there appears the phrase, “the judgment seat of Christ” (Romans 14:10; II Corinthians 5:10). The Apostle Paul was chosen by God to write on this major theme. In this study we shall pursue three lines of truth, namely, the *judge*, the *judged*, and the *judgment*.

1. The Judge

The judge is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. “For the Father...hath committed all judgment unto the Son” (John 5:22, see John 5:27 and Acts 17:31). We Christians have not been given the prerogative to pass judgment on one another. The Lord Jesus warned, “Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged...” (Matthew 7:1,2). We are all imperfect in our knowledge, therefore we are incompetent to qualify for the office of Judge. It is *His* Judgment Seat, called “the Judgment Seat of Christ.” Because His judgment is according to truth, He “will render to every man according to his deeds” (Romans 2:2,6).

2. The Judged

The “we” in Romans 14:10 is easily identifiable as those who “are the Lord’s” (vs. 8). Some teachers of the Bible believe that there will be one general judgment for all members of the human race to be administered at the same time and place. However, it appears to us that the Scriptures teach more than one future

judgment: the first pre-millennial judgment and a post-millennial judgment. The first pre-millennial judgment is for Christians only, a judgment in which the unsaved have no part.

3. The Judgment

The Greek word *bema*, translated “judgment seat”, gives some idea of the nature of the judgment. The word *bema* was a familiar term in Paul’s day. In the large olympic arenas there was an elevated seat on which sat the judge of the contest. After the contests were over, the contestants would assemble before the *bema* to receive their reward or crown. The *bema* was not a judicial bench where the contestants were condemned. It was a reward seat. Likewise, the Judgment Seat of Christ is not a judicial bench to announce whether or not people are saved. All who appear before our Lord at that day will have been saved. The purpose of the Judgment Seat of Christ is to give to, or withhold from, Christians the rewards for service.

REFLECTIONS of FAITH

Edited by
Pat Farmwald

God's Garden

1 Cor. 3:9

Last spring I planted a garden
Where briars and bramble once grew.
My neighbor in passing said-
Got a nice garden, God and you.

Thank you, I said in reply,
While removing another stone.
You should have seen it last year
When God had it all alone.

'Twas cursed with thorns and thistles
'Till cleansed by these willing hands,
And now apart from His blessings
'Twould be like the desert sand.

My life was once an untilled plot,
With weeds and nettles untold.
Since cleansed by God, I worked with Him
While reaping a hundred-fold.

At this I shall ever marvel-
Though made from an earthen clod,
That man in spite of his weakness
Can labor together with God.

by
B.C. Jennings

Spring

The beautiful sunshine,
The grass is so green;
A more beautiful sight
Has never been seen.

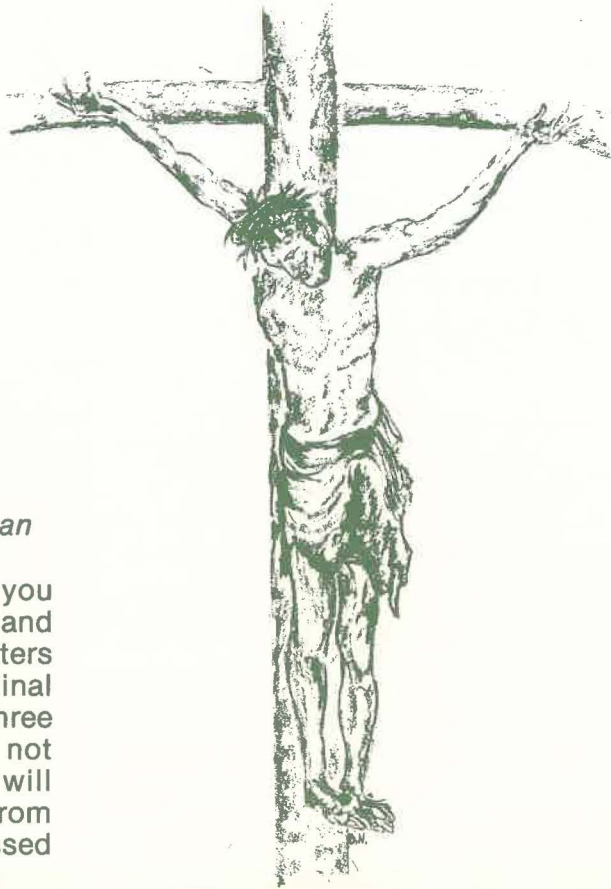
We see in the sunshine
And all over the land,
A wonderful picture
From the touch of God's hand.

Springtime is so beautiful
After winter's cold days;
And we see God's handiwork
In so many ways.

by
Carrie F. Bartlett

It Is Finished

by
Mark J. Highman



During this Easter season I would like for you to read the account of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in John chapters 18-19. In John 19:30 Christ uttered three final words: "It is finished." We find these three words packed full of meaning which is not usually noticed when one reads the verse. I will be drawing the following eight ideas from Matthew Henry's commentary. They blessed me; I'm sure they will bless you!

It is finished, that is, all that His persecutors could do, they have done. They cannot do anymore to hurt and maim His body. "This is the last; I am now going out of their reach, where the wicked cease from troubling."

It is finished, that is, He had fulfilled the last of his Father's commandments concerning His sufferings. He told His Father in the garden, "Thy will be done," and now he had the pleasure to say, "It is finished."

It is finished, that is, all the types and prophecies of the Old Testament which pointed to the Messiah and His sufferings were accomplished. He speaks, now that they had given Him the vinegar, as if He could not bethink Himself of any work in the Old Testament that was to be fulfilled between Him and His death.

It is finished, that is, the ceremonial law is abolished. Just now the veil is rent, the wall of partition is taken down. The Mosaic economy is dissolved to make way for a better hope!

It is finished, that is, sin is finished. Now our sins are paid in full and Christ's blood covers them all!

It is finished, that is, His sufferings were now finished. All His pains and agonies are at an end and He is just going to paradise, entering upon the joy set before Him!

It is finished, that is, His life was now finished, and He was ready to breathe His last breath. Like Paul, our Lord was thinking, "I have finished my course; I have run the race..."

It is finished, that is, the work of man's redemption and salvation is now completed; now all men must do is believe. A full satisfaction is made to the justice of God, a fatal blow given to the power of Satan, a fountain of grace opened that shall ever flow, a foundation of peace and happiness laid that shall never fail! Christ has now gone through His work and finished it! When you think about it for a moment, God has been planning that moment on the cross even before the foundations of this earth were laid. The cross proves a turning point for mankind, and for you salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Until you have received Christ as your Saviour and have been truly saved, you cannot speak as Christ did, or even as Paul, in saying, "It is finished..." Simply trusting in the finished work of Christ is all an individual must do to be saved; living a life for Christ gives you the room to say with our Lord, "It is finished!" Are you saved? If so, are you living a life for Christ? My friend, think on these things.

Interview by

Daily Walk Through God's Word

"Thy testimonies are my delight and my
counsellors." Psalm 119:24

April	Morning	Evening
	Joshua	Acts
1	13,14	2
2	15,16	3
3	17,18	4
4	19,20	5
5	21,22	6
6	23,24	7
	Judges	
7	1,2	8
8	3,4	9
9	5,6	10
10	7,8	11
11	9,10	12
12	11,12	13
13	13,14,15	14
14	16,17	15
15	18,19	16
16	20,21	17
	Ruth	
17	1,2	18
18	3,4	19
	I Samuel	
19	1,2	20
20	3,4,5	21
21	6,7,8	22
22	9,10	23
23	11,12,13	24
24	14,15	25
25	16,17	26
26	18,19	27
27	20,21,22	28
		Romans
28	23,24	1
29	25,26	2
30	27,28,29	3

Congratulations! If you've read consistently through the beginning of April, you're a fourth of the way to your goal. Keep it up.

Almost every Sunday morning, as the congregation of the First Baptist Church of Shelbyville, Illinois, enters the church building, they are greeted by the smiling face and warm handshake of Mr. Richard Yocum. Mr. Yocum was chosen as an interviewee for LIVING SPRINGS because he has been greatly used of the Lord in such areas as treasurer, trustee, and Sunday school teacher in the past, and because God has chosen to use him in what may seem to some a very small position today. Listen to his story.

Mr. Yocum related to me that although there have been many trials in his life, the Lord has been faithful and good to him. While serving in the war, Mr. Yocum was wounded, but the Lord brought him through. Later the Lord had tried him with cancer which resulted in having one of his legs surgically removed. A year or so ago, while still actively leading a group of active high school boys in Sunday school, he suffered a heart attack during his stay in a hospital for a medical check-up. This heart attack required the insertion of a pacemaker. The doctor strictly put a limitation on the amount of activity for Mr. Yocum, which meant giving up the teaching of his Sunday school class. But even so we still find Mr. Yocum praising His Savior! Do you think all these things kept Mr. Yocum from serving the Lord? Hardly! Mr. Yocum immediately started looking for less strenuous ways to continue in the service of God.

Servants

Carol Hippard

Mr. Yocum feels that his service for the Lord is small but he is pleased to serve God in any area! This reminds me of a passage in Luke 9:48 which I believe applies to Mr. Yocum: "...for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great." When Mr. Yocum is not on his post on Sunday mornings passing out the bulletins and shaking hands, people really notice. He always takes the time to give a few words of encouragement or a warm, friendly "Hello!" In this church, Mr. Yocum's job IS significant in that his extreme love for the Lord is always touching the lives of others. And you can be sure that when he isn't shaking your hand that he is somewhere praying for you, which is a great encouragement to all!

The Apostle Paul said in Ephesians 5:20, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Mr. Yocum certainly falls into this category. Mr. Yocum also stated that he was thankful for his Christian home, his many friends and relatives, the right to worship as he sees fit, and the enabling strength the Lord has granted him to face the various trials of his life.

What is your life before God? Are you sitting back, down on life or blaming God for your physical condition today? Mr. Yocum is a good example of what YOU can do for the Lord even in the worst of life. His service may seem trite, but God says he shall make it mighty! Let's all learn to serve our God with this fervor.

Note Worthy

edited by
Loanna Hamilton

When the great fire swept through Chicago in 1871, Horatio Spafford lost all his material possessions. In 1873 he sent his wife and four children to Europe while he tried to regain the loss. Six days after Mr. Spafford waved good-bye to his family, their ship crashed with another vessel. Mrs. Spafford brought her children together and prayed and asked God to either save them or make them willing to die. The ship sank; Mrs. Spafford and the children were separated. Mrs. Spafford was found alive, but the children had perished in the raging waters of the sea.

When Mr. Spafford received the news of his children's deaths he exclaimed, "It is well: the will of God be done!" Then, to express his faith in God he wrote the familiar hymn, "It is Well With My Soul."

Upon hearing the story behind the hymn, a man who was ruined in the panic of 1899 one time exclaimed: "If Spafford could write such a beautiful resignation hymn, I will never complain again."

These are the words that Horatio G. Spafford penned:

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Thought For The Month

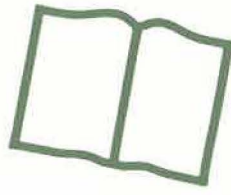
It is better to be small and SHINE than to be great and cast a shadow.

Verse For The Month:

"And the angel answered and said unto the women [Mary Magdalene and the other Mary], Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

Matthew 28:5,6

Light for Living



A LOOK AT
THE BOOK

by Dr. James T. Jeremiah

In a certain pond on one of the farms in the east were two ducks and a frog. Now these neighbors were the best of friends, and all day long they used to play together. But as the hot days came, the pond began to dry up and soon there was such a little bit of water that they all realized that they would have to move. Now the ducks could easily fly to another place, but what about their friend the frog?

Finally it was decided that they would put a stick in the bill of each duck, and then the frog would hang on to the stick with his mouth and they would fly him to another pond. And so they did. As they were flying, a farmer out in his field looked up and saw them and said, "Well, isn't that a clever idea! I wonder who thought of it." The frog said, "I did." "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18). Jesus said in Matthew 12:37, "By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Someone said, "The trouble with the man who talks too fast is that he often says something he hasn't thought of yet."

"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom" (James 3:13).

"The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment" (Psa. 37:30).

"Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works...My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness" (Psa. 119:27, 172).

"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness" (Prov. 15:1,2).

A quiet little woman was surrounded by seven big strapping sons and a husband. When asked how she made her soft voice heard above the boisterous males in her family, she replied: "That's very simple. I whisper. In my family, a whisper is so unusual that everyone listens to it with profound

attention."

"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh" (Luke 6:45).

The tongue is the means of expressing what is in the heart. If we would use good speech we must have a life that is in tune with the only One who can make the heart right. That comes only through a personal experience of salvation in Christ.

Let's Chatter

editorial by
Mark Highman

About a Matter

A matter that I would like to chatter about is the LIVING SPRINGS inspirational paper. Do you enjoy reading the paper? How has the Lord used it in your life? Is it meeting your needs? Do you find it interesting?

These, and many more questions, we on the staff need to consider time and time again. Why? Because this is our ministry to you and it is important that we continually evaluate it. If our ministry is not being used by the Lord, or if it is fruitless, then we should not continue such a ministry.

How do we answer the many evaluative questions? By the response from: 1) our subscribers, and 2) our readers. When there is no response, we have to speculate as to the success of the ministry. When we hear from you, then we can more objectively evaluate this ministry.

Do you see the importance of writing? Why not write us a quick note right now and let us know what LIVING SPRINGS means to you? If you do not want your letter published, just simply let us know in your note. Writing a note today may make the difference in having an issue at hand this time next year!

Our address is:

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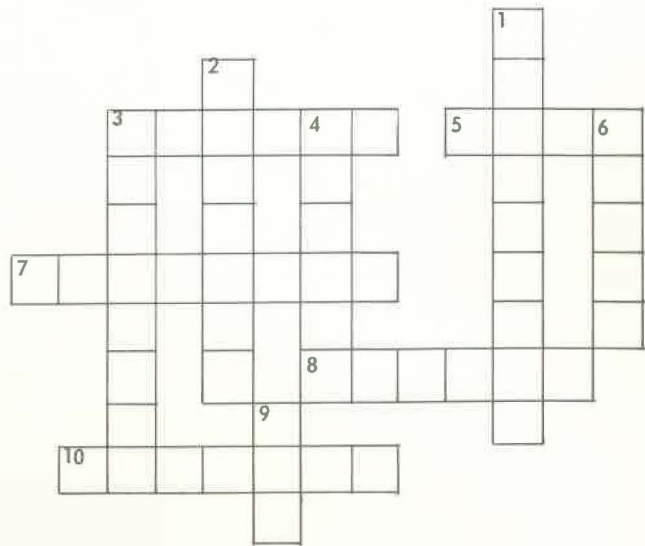
Quizzle

ACROSS

3. Chorus: New Life in _____ .
 5. A new _____ in our mouths. Psa. 40:3.
 7. Sing a new song upon a _____ . Psa. 144:9
 8. Beyond, I make all _____ new. Rev. 21:5
 10. By Christ's Resurrection..walk in _____ of life. Rom. 6:4

DOWN

1. The new man...renewed in _____ . Col. 3:10
 2. The new man... _____ in righteousness. Eph. 4:24
 3. Any man in Christ is a new _____ . II Cor 5:17
 4. Serving in newness of _____ . Rom. 7:6
 6. Hymn: A New Name in _____ .
 9. A _____ commandment: Love one another. John 13:34.



Looking At God's Creation

by
Cathi Finnemore

Most people know what a pearl looks like. Many, however, do not realize that a pearl is formed through a very unusual process.

The most valuable pearls are those found in tropical seas inside a very common shellfish—the oyster. This beautiful (and valuable) stone has a very humble beginning. The formation of a pearl begins when a single grain of sand or other particle enters the oyster's shell and begins to irritate it. To protect himself the oyster secretes a substance called *nacie*. This substance merely covers the grain of sand with many protective layers until it is no longer able to irritate the oyster. An interesting fact is that when a pearl is split, it closely resembles a sliced onion.

Pearls come in various shapes, sizes and colors. The colors range all the way from white to orange and even includes one called the "black" pearl. This pearl, which is actually grey, has the greatest value. Though beautiful and



valuable, the pearl damages easily. Because they are soft, pearls must be kept away from other jewelry which might scratch them. Pearls need also to be carefully washed and dried each time they are worn.

The Christian Life can be compared to the pearl. Oftentimes problems and tribulations arise in our lives which might hinder our Christian growth—just like the grain of sand which irritates the oyster. Even as the oyster is able

to overcome his problem and create something valuable from his problem, so can Christ use our problems to create something valuable and beautiful.

Trials often increase our faith in Christ. James 1:2-3 reads: *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.* Trials and temptations come into our lives helping us realize how much we need to depend on Jesus Christ.

Just as the oyster creates a beautiful pearl from sand, being able to withstand temptation builds us up in our Christian growth. James 1:12 states: *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.*

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But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:14

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ANSWERS

Across

3. Christ
5. song
7. psaltery
8. things
10. newness

Down

1. knowledge
2. created
3. creature
4. spirit
6. glory
9. new