"The thing which I greatly feared is come upon me"

Job shares a secret with us at the close of his lament. Before all his troubles started, he had a fear that something terrible was going to happen. His worst fears had now been realized.

I must confess that there are some things that I fear. I have no fears about where I am going to spend eternity. Since that Monday night many years ago, when I put my trust in Jesus Christ, I have never once feared where I was going to spend eternity. Now before I put my trust in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary, I often would fear where whether heaven or hell would be my final desitnation. But since that Monday night, it is settled once and for all where I am going when I die.

However, there are some things that I fear. Fear is a healthy thing. Proverbs 16:6 says, "By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil." Others have said, "Fear is the mother of safety," and "A man who never fears is a fool."

This morning I want to share some things with you that I fear.

I. I fear being **barren** at the judgment Seat of Christ. **Romans 14:10-13**

An old English prophetic scholar once said, "Here is a thought that should be the greatest inducement to holy living, greater than any other single thing." Dr. Dwight Pentecost once said, "There are few doctrines of greater importance to the child of God than the doctrine of the Judgment Seat of Christ." The apostle Paul certainly lived his life with one eye on the Judgment Seat of Christ and the other on this perishing world.
"What a transformation would take place in our churches if all of the awesomeness of the Judgment Seat of Christ were properly proclaimed."

Daniel Webster was at one time considered the greatest of all living Americans. He was an outstanding statesman, lawyer, and leader of me. At a banquet of 25 national leaders gathered in his honor, Webster was asked, "Sir what is the greatest thought that ever entered your mind?" Without hesitation, Webster replied, "The greatest thought that ever entered my mind was the thought of my responsibility to God."

If you have flopped, fizzled, and fooled around down here, it will be a time of trembling thwn you stand before the all-knowing God. Every Christians must give account to Him. I cannot give account for you, and you cannot give account for me. We shall have to give a reason for what we did and what we did not do. We shall tell Him why we neglected His Word, His mission, and His church. Everything will come out in that day!

I Corinthians 3:11-15

It is a judgment for servants. Our work shall be manifest. Not the size of our work but the sort of it. Not a judgment of quantity but quality. Fire doesn't measure size; it test quality. He is not only interested in what you do; he is also interested in why you do it.

I Corinthians 4:5

II Corinthians 5:10

"judgment seat of Christ"

A. The certainty of it - "Must"

This is not a possibility nor a probability, but a certainty. It is a definite appointment on the calendar with God.

The absolute injustices of life on earth demand that there be such a day. There is
coming a day when right will be vindicated and wrong condemned. This was one of the
greatest realities of life to the Apostle Paul.

B. The universality of it "all"

The strong Christian and the weak Christian will stand. No amount of holiness or
piety will exempt you from this judgment, and no amount of weakness will excuse you from it.

All without exemption or excuse.

C. The authority of it "judgment seat of Christ"

It is the judgment seat of Christ before whom we stand. He will make no mistake,
because He discerns the heart. He will not impute wrong where it is not due, and He will give
no credit for something that appears to be right while the motive is wrong.

There is no court to appeal. Here is a judgment that is final, just and absolutely
ture. Here is a judgment not based on appearances, but on the infinite knowledge of God.

D. The individuality of it "every one may receive the things done in his body"

Account is not given as a group but as an individual. It is a man and a woman
being separated even from the context of their family and standing alone to give an account of
himself and herself before God. This is a judgment where husband and wife, parent and child,
are separated from each other.

E. **The imparatality of it "whether it be good or bad"**

Everything which has been done in dependence upon the Holy Spirit and for the

glory of God will merit a reward. Everything which has been done in the energy of the flesh

and for the glory of self will be burnt up and will suffer loss. Every motive and well as every

action will be brought to light in that day.

"judgment seat of Christ"

**WHAT?**

The words "judgment seat" are a translation of the Greek word *bema*, which is a

raised platform. In Paul's day, outside the city of Corinth stood a large Olympic stadium

containing a raised platform on which the judge sat and watched the contestants. From this

vantage point, the judge could have unobstructed view of the contest. He could see if there

were any infractions of the rules. When the contest were finished, the contestants assembled

before the Bema Seat to receive their rewards.

**WHEN?**
Paul wrote in I Corinthians 4:5, "Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God."

Jesus also told us when He would judge the Christian in Revelation 22:12. "Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

WHY?

This judgment is to make manifest or declare the essential character and motives of the individual Christian. The mistakes of time will there be rectified, wrong judgments reversed, and misunderstandings corrected. It will be a clearing up moment.

It will be a time where the unfaithful Christian will realize the impact of his unfaithfulness, where many Christians will recognize that the cause of Christ suffered because of their indifference and neglect, and where many a child of God will see that through them souls have been lost who could have been won for eternity.

WHAT?

Place of REVELATION

Revealed why we did what we did.

Place of REVIEW

Place of RECKONING

"Give account"
1. Our **possessions**

2. Our **potential**

3. Our **privileges**

**Place of REWARDS**

Five crowns that are named in the Scripture that may be rewarded to Christians at this time.

**Place of Regrets**

I don’t think we will enjoy our losses. What shame and regret will be there when we realize what could have been. To see much of our work go up in smoke because it was done for in the power of the Holy Spirit, not done because of a love for Jesus, and not done for the glory of the Lord. I don’t want to be "ashamed at his coming."

"**judgment seat of Christ**"

A **Time of THOROUGHNESS**

Accounting of our stewardship, substance, secrets, sacrifice, service, submission,
soulwinning, supplications. and our searching of the Scriptures. Accounting of our social life, secret life, and our spiritual life. Accounting of your worship, willingness, work, walk, and your witnessing.

B. **Time of TRUTH**

The accounting will be accurate. It will be actual. There will be no foolishness, nor fabrication, or fraud. There will not be any family to shield you or for you to run behind and hide.

C. **Time of THOUGHTFULNESS**

Every consideration will be given you, but when He gets through with every one of us, we will realize that He knows all. He knows all about you.

I fear being barren at the judgment seat of Christ. II John 8 says, "look to yourselves that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

II. I fear being **BANNED** from Service
I Corinthians 9:27

To become a castaway means to be rejected or disapproved. It means to be discharged. I don’t want to be banned from serving God. The thought of it is frightening to me.

A. Disqualified by sin of immorality

B. Disqualified by some shady financial dealings

There are some things that will ruin you in your service for God: money, maidens, and modernism. Unchecked fleshly lusts will wreck our testimony and ruin our Christian service.

Must have discipline in our lives. Discipline means giving up the good and the better for the best. One of the major causes of disqualification in the ministry is the lack of protective hedges. If a man does not fear his own potential and build some hedges around himself, he is headed for disaster and a disqualification.

III. I fear BLOOD dripping from my hands

Exekiel 3:17,18

This verse speaks of the responsibility of a watchman - warn. It also speaks of the reckoning of the of the watchman. Paul testified to the elders at Ephesus that he had plead daily, nightly, publicly, personally, passionately with every sinner that he had the opportunity to in that city. "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men."
How many are going to stumble into Hell over our closed lips and inconsistent lives.

At the Great White Throne Judgment, I fear seeing my neighbors, friends, and relatives cast into hell, and turning to me and saying, "You never told me."

A. Witnessing is important because of the **peril** of souls.

B. Witnessing is important because of the **price** of souls

   "What shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own souls?"

C. Witnessing is important because of the **payment** for souls

   No purchase in the world was ever so expensive as our redemption.

Need is to visualize, agonize, and evangelize.

IV. I fear being **BARRED** from the throne of God

No answers to prayer, no power in prayer simply because of an obstruction.

Psalm 66:18 "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will hear me." Barred from the throne of God because of **UNCONFESSED SIN**. If I allow a sin to be cherished, indulged in, excused, and unconfessed--then my prayers are in vain. "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear,"

Isaiah 59:2 states.
Barred from having my prayers answered because of **UNHEEDING HEART**. "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.” Refuse to heed the Word of God presents our petitions in God’s eyes as something He detest, hates, disgusted with, abhors, and is repulsive to Him. Read Zechariah 7:7-13. Mark 4:24, "Unto you that hear shall more be given."

Barred from having prayers answered because of **UNSCRIPTURAL MOTIVES.** James 4:3 tells us, ‘Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your own lust.” Our primary motive in prayers should be that God may be glorified by answering our prayers.

Barred from having prayers answered because of **UNSYMPATHETIC EAR** (Proverbs 21:13).

Barred from having prayers answered because of **UNHAPPY RELATIONSHIP** (I Peter 3:7). Need to be attentive and appreciative of each other.

Barred from having prayers answered because of **UNBELIEVING ATTITUDE** (James 1:6-8 and Mark 11:24).

V. I fear allowing **BITTERNESS** to overtake me.
I have seen what bitterness can do to people. It blights a person. Bitterness banishes peace. It is an emotional cancer which can consume an individual. Read Hebrews 12:14,15. A bitter person is an individual who has been hurt. He dwells on his hurt and allows it to fester. If it is not dealt with, bitterness will defile, deteriorate the individual, damage spiritual vitality, and eventually destroy.

Illustration:

Lady who had just been informed by the doctor that she had rabies. Immediately she took a piece of paper out of her purse and began to write. The doctor asked her, "Are you making your will?" "NO, I am writing down the people I am going to bite."

A. Must recognize it

B. Must remove it

   Learn to forgive

VI. I fear being BEWITCHED by some evil spirit (1 Timothy 4:1).

Seen men far better than me that have been seduced by evil spirits. Know men who were far better preachers than me, walk off from their wife of forty years and marry another. The devil is a deceiver. Observed some people do certain things that are plainly forbidden from the Scripture and say that they are totally and fully convinced that God is leading them to do it. GOD NEVER LEADS CONTRARY TO HIS WRITTEN WORD.

A. Bewitched into defiling your testimony

B. Bewitched into diluting your doctrinal stand

C. Betwitched into destroying your home
D. Betwitched into *distorting* your vision

Proverbs 28:13, *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."*

Thinking more of the present than the future.

Thinking more of the body than the soul.

Thinking more of the temporal than the eternal.

E. Bewitched into being *distracted* from the work of God

The devil will get you to blow up, give up, not to show up. He will attempt to get you to shut up, pack up, and even tear up.

VII. I fear being *backslidden* on God (Psalm 73:1,2).

Backslidding is very deceptive. Oftentimes we don’t even recognize it. It is a very gradual thing.

Several things that can lead to being in a backslidden state.

A. **Association of this world**

This world is no friend of the dedicated Christian.

B. **Absence from worship**

Verse 17 tells us where Asaph dealt with his backslidding
C. Alienation from the Word

CONCLUSION:

There is one thing I don’t fear. I don’t fear where I will spend eternity. I settled that many years ago. There are several things that I do fear. Those things I am going to be careful about. Those things I am going to put up some protective hedges against. There are several good protections against temptations, but the surest is fear.