



THE ACCOUNT WHICH WE MUST GIVE
(Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:13-15)



For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil (2 Cor 5:10)

1 Cor 9:24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners **run**, but only one receives the prize? So **run** that you may obtain it.

1 Cor 9:25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, **but we an imperishable.**

Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us**

1 Cor 4:5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

I) The Bema or the Judgment Seat is not an optional event

2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Rom 14:10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother?

For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God (Christ)

i) What is this Judgment for?

It is the day of our accountability to God

“There is a necessity, or a fitness that we should appear there to give up **our account**” (Albert Barnes)

Rom 14:12 So then each of us will **give an account** of himself to God.

ii) Who is it for?

This judgment is only for the Christians

Heb 9:27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment

1. Judgment Seat of Christ/God (Greek: Bema)

This is for the Christians

2. The Great White Throne Judgment (Rev 20:11ff)

This is for those who are not believers in the Lord.

II) When will this event take place?

1 Cor 4:5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

III) Who will be Judged?

i) Let's begin with leaders in the church.

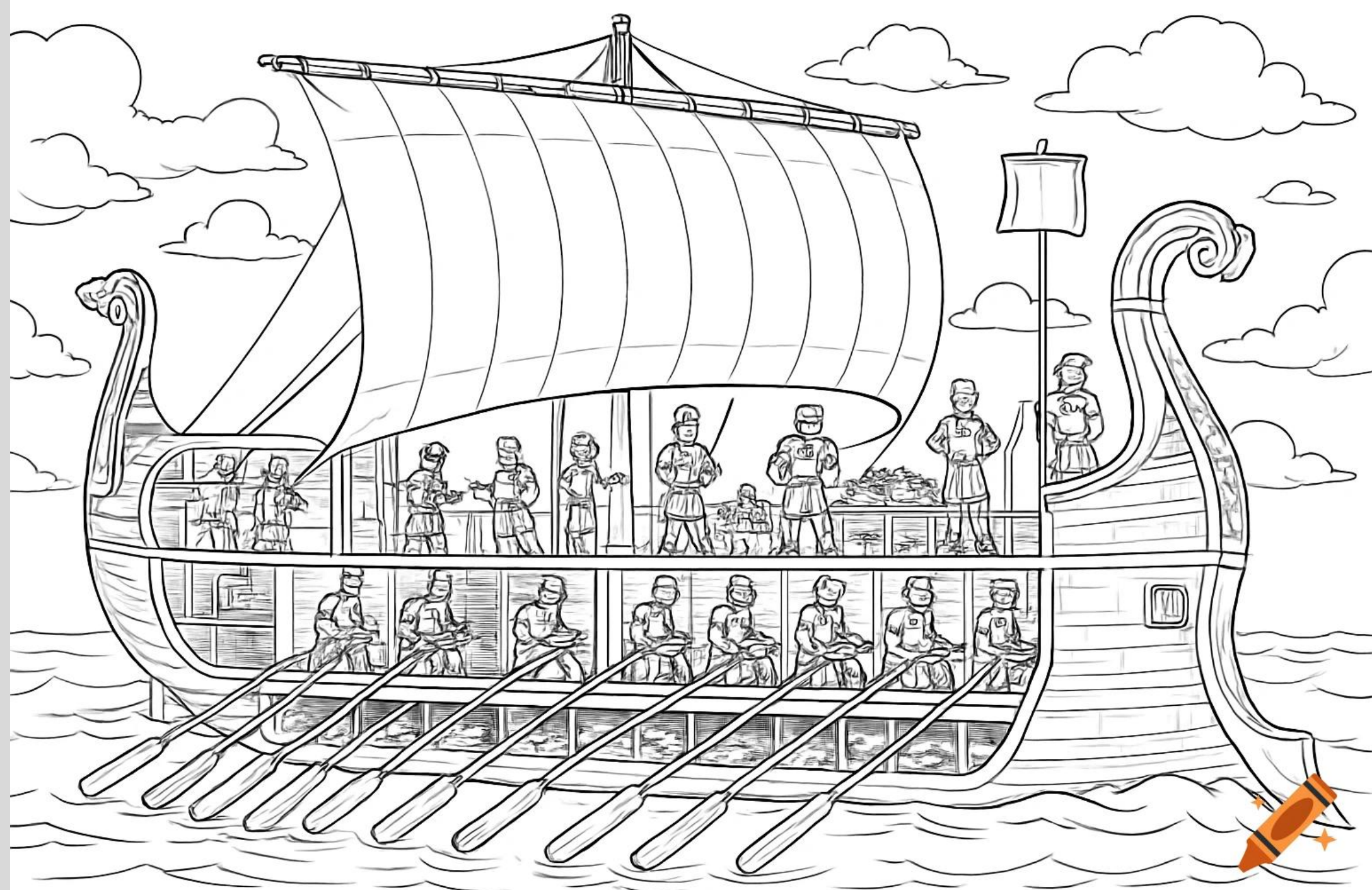
Heb 13:17 (KJV) Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as **they that must give account**, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

What account must church leaders give?

Be faithful to the task the Lord has entrusted you. Be His faithful steward

1 Cor 4:1 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

“Servant” - not “doulos” but “huperetes” **“under-rower”**



**Roman
ship
with
under-
rowers**



1 Cor 4:2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

A steward in Greek “Oikonomos” is the trusted manager of a household or estate.

Church leaders are servants (huperetes) and stewards (Oikonomos), entrusted with a task and they must be faithful.

Faithful in what task?

Faithful in proclaiming the mysteries of God

2 Tim 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the word of truth.**

Faithful teaching and faithfully living out His Word.

James 3:1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that **we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.**

If there is anything which ought to be managed with extreme prudence and caution, it is that of faithfully teaching the Word, and how you live your life is what God will judge you. (motive, integrity, pride, showmanship etc.)

ii) All Christians must give account to God

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil **(2 Cor 5:10)**

What type of judgment will it be for the believers?

2 Cor 5:8 Yes, we are of good courage, and **we would** rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

2 Cor 5:9 So whether we are at home or away, **we** make it our **aim** to please him.

“aim” – Greek: my ambition

“we must all **appear** before the judgment seat of Christ” (2 Cor 5:10)

Luke 12:2 Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.

Luke 12:3 Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.

How can we live a life pleasing to God? How to do so?

1 Cor 3:11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 3:12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—

1 Cor 3:13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.

Heb 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.

Gen 5:22 Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters.

Gen 5:23 Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years.

Gen 5:24 Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

“walked with God” – Septuagint – “to please God.”

Jude 14 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones,
Jude 15 to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

- This man had a living relationship with God.
- His faith was firmly anchored in God (that's why he is mentioned in Heb 11)
- The closer he walks with God, the more he grows in Christ-like character. **This is holiness.** Otherwise, no one will listen to him.

Eccl 9:10 **Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might**, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

The judgment seat is not meant to paralyse believers, but to motivate holy living and service for the Lord.

On that day:

- Our lives will be reviewed
- Our works will be tested by fire (1 Cor 3:13).
- Our motives will be revealed

How should we live?

- Live intentionally for the Lord (aim, ambition is to please Him).
- Serve faithfully
- Examine your heart as you serve (motive, sincerity, purity)
- Invest in eternity

Let us not live for the applause of men, but for the approval of Christ.

Rev 2:23 and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.