

**NEWS AND VIEWS**  
**MOUNT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH**

3500 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27612-5362

Phone... (919) 787-1910  
E-mail: office@mobc.org  
Web Page: www.mobc.org

*“Southern Baptists with the Full  
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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SAM GORE, Senior Pastor  
EDITH JACKSON, Prayer Coordinator

NANCY MCBRAYER, Office Manager  
MIKE KING, Maintenance Supervisor

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*“You’re sitting in my seat!”* Have you ever heard those words? Sometimes the words can be very embarrassing. Once we were sitting in an auditorium at a gospel music festival. The crowd was large and space was limited. We sat down in the first empty seats we could find and had watched over half the show. Then the people who had tickets with assigned seat numbers, (*the numbers of the seats matched the seats we were occupying*) showed up and we had to move. I felt as though I had been caught trying to steal something! I felt convicted and guilty. The truth was I had no right to sit there. I was in the wrong seat. At a gospel music festival!

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10)*

Have you ever felt as though you didn’t belong somewhere and wished you could escape? Perhaps it was at some gathering like that gospel music festival and you felt out of place. Or maybe you responded to a dinner invitation and didn’t realize there was a dress code and it didn’t include shorts and tee shirts! For those of us who belong to Christ we have been invited to the judgment seat of Christ. Not an option. We will be there. More like a Divine Appointment. One day true believers in Christ will give an account of how we have lived in Christ. And in that day, we may want to flee, but the painful truth is that we will belong there. Judgment day. In that day, Christ will glorify Himself as the Righteous Judge. The good news is that we will be gathered for judgment as His people. The Lord Jesus will deal with God’s people justly. There will be no “blind justice” for He knows all and there will be no incorrect judgments or incomplete rulings. He is sovereign and His authority is ultimate and absolute. And there will be no appeals to a higher court because this is the court of the Most High God. Let’s consider:

**I. THE JUDGMENT SEAT IS WHERE PAYMENT IS RENDERED.** In this world of material things, sometimes a lawsuit is brought between contesting parties and a “judgment” is secured. This is the guarantee that a payment will be rendered. The party who wins the lawsuit can secure this judgment at the place where the judge is seated. No one but the judge has the right to be in the judgment seat but the judge. In the court of King Jesus we all must appear before Him. No one else will judge me because no one else has the full knowledge of my case. God intimately knows us. And He is the Judge.

**II. THE JUDGMENT SEAT IS WHERE FINES ARE LEVIED.** The guilty stand convicted before the judgment bar. In that day, godly deeds will be rewarded. And ungodly deeds will be judged. The life I have lived in the earth since Christ came to live in us is righteously evaluated...and judgment is rendered. I am so thankful that my eternal locality has already been designated. I don’t have to wonder about my eternal destination. But my eternal destiny is the question. Will I be given more responsibility in eternity according to how I have served Christ on earth? I think so. There is more riding on how obedient I am to His commands today than I realize. A lot depends on our service in the here and now as to what will transpire in the by and by. I don’t want to suffer any loss of eternal privileges and benefits.

How about you? What will you hear at the judgment seat of Christ? Will it be *Well done, My good and faithful servant...* or will it be something quite different? If we desire to hear *Well done...* then it is apparent that we are to live here *doing well*. And the standard of judgment is Christ Himself. He is in His seat and He will judge us according to His word. So the question today...while it is today...Are we focused on doing His word...are we living out our lives really *doing well*? I can only speak for me and you can only speak for you. In that day, what will you say to Jesus, the Judge?

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam