

## Section Two: The Kingdom of God on Earth (Present)

### Category C: Bema – Kingdom Intelligence Report #3

Topic: The Criteria

God is a God of justice and fairness. He shows no partiality whatsoever. As a result, we can expect the reap/sow dynamic to be implemented in each of our lives, in a manner that reflects who God truly is (Colossians 3:23-4:1). On the other hand, there may be some surprises at the Judgment Seat of Christ, due to the omniscient capability of God to evaluate us as the unique individuals that we are. To be specific, Romans 12:3 reveals that every Christian has been given a certain measure of faith from God. In addition, the greatest and foremost commandment in all of Scripture tells us that we must love the Lord your God “with all **your** heart, and with all **your** soul, and with all **your** mind.” God doesn’t expect us to love Him with someone else’s heart, soul and mind; but with our own. So when you combine Romans 12:3 with Matthew 22:37, the Judgment Seat of Christ will truly be a uniquely individualized experience. We can be supremely confident that whatever reward we do receive, it will be deserved. With that in mind, we must give serious consideration to the key passage in the New Testament which provides us with the precise criteria, that will form the basis of our evaluation, found in 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 –

**“Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy. But to me it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord. Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.”**

What an incredible amount of insight and clarity we are given here regarding the criteria for our evaluation by the Lord, at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Furthermore, we have confirmation in this passage of what Paul taught in Romans 14:1-12; in that, we as Christians, are not to be judging one another. This applies not only to those disputable gray areas of Christian living, but also when it comes to those issues which only the Lord is capable of judging. In other words, only the Lord knows the measure of faith that He has given to each of us. Only the Lord knows the heart, soul, and mind capacities with which He created us. Most importantly of all, only the Lord knows the motivation within each of us, which causes us to do what we do in our outward behavior. This is why Paul refused to submit to the judgmental bullying tactics of the Corinthians, in regard to his apostleship. As far as he was concerned, his conscience was clear when it came to his life and ministry; and he wasn’t about to let these dysfunctional Christians in Corinth become his conscience for him. He was confident in the ability of the Lord Himself to speak to Paul’s inner man and correct whatever needed rectifying, on both a personal and ministerial level. Having said all of that, we can combine 1 Corinthians 4:2 with 4:5, and present a clear cut criteria for our time of evaluation. It will be: **“properly motivated faithfulness!”** Nothing more, nothing less; for every single one of us, as followers of our Savior.