

R I G H T L Y D I V I D I N G T H E D A Y O F C H R I S T

S.L.H.
Soli Deo Gloria!

Biblical References

1 Corinthians 1:7-8

⁷ So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁸ Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in **the day of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

1Corinthians 5:5

⁵ To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in **the day of the Lord Jesus**.

2 Corinthians 1:14

¹⁴ As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also are ours in **the day of the Lord Jesus**.

Philippians 1:6

⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until **the day of Jesus Christ**:

Philippians 1:10

¹⁰ That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till **the day of Christ**.

Philippians 2:16

¹⁶ Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in **the day of Christ**, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.

2 Thessalonians 2:2

² That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that **the day of Christ** is at hand.

Analysis

The "day of Christ" cannot be the rapture of the Church, since it is distinguished from the Rapture (e.g., 1Cor1:7-8; 2Thess2:2). It is a day of "rejoicing" (2Cor1:14; Philip2:16) at which the believer is found to be "blameless" (1Cor1:8), "without offence" (Philip1:10), and to have not "labored in vain" (Philip2:16). Finally, it includes the time in which "the spirit" is demonstrated to have been "saved" (1Cor5:5; cf. 1Cor3:15). It is the conclusion of God's "good work" in Church Age believers, including bestowing of rewards (Philip2:16). The "day of Christ" necessarily extends beyond the rapture/resurrection, to include both the "judgment seat of Christ" (Rom14:10; 1Cor3:11-15; 2Cor5:10) and the "marriage of the Lamb" (Rev19:7-8).

Conclusions

As used by the Apostle Paul¹, "**the day of Christ**" is a time period equivalent to "**the day of the LORD**" (Cp., Luk2:11; Act2:36; i.e., "Christ" = "Lord"), but viewed from a different perspective. Whereas "the day of the LORD" (i.e., the 7-year Tribulation period, or Daniel's 70th Week; Dan9:27) focuses on the devastating judgments visited upon Gentile nations on the earth, which bring terror on all its inhabitants and culminates in Christ's second coming to destroy His enemies and forcibly establish the kingdom of God on earth over which He will rule with a rod of iron, "the day of Christ" focuses on the joyous events that take place in heaven during this same period of time; namely, the "judgment seat of Christ" (at which members of the Body of Christ receive their rewards) and the "marriage of the Lamb" (at which the Body of Christ becomes the Bride of Christ).

¹ Note that all instances of "the day of Christ" occur in the Pauline epistles, a strong signal that this expression applies uniquely to the Church as the Body/Bride of Christ.