

# The Parchment

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## Ordination Sunday

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I rank last Sunday as one of the most special days of my life. It's up there with my baptism, wedding, and seminary graduation days. I felt a bit nervous all day so when I finally sat down at the ordination ceremony I thought I could rest a bit. To my surprise Rev. Lee asked us three to stand up during his message. Then he asked us to turn to face the congregation. I did not realize how many people were there! I felt comforted when many of my friends smiled or nodded at me. But as the message rolled on I started to think about the gravity of the occasion. Not only did I stand before God to commit to the gospel ministry as an ordained pastor, but I also stood before mentors, elders, friends, and congregants the same. I felt a deep sense of responsibility and accountability.

You may not have the chance I had to be ordained as a pastor, but one day we all will stand before Christ to give an account. Paul explains in 2 Corinthians 5:10, "*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*" This judgment is for Christians, not for salvation, but for commendation by Christ. So we don't have to worry whether we have done enough to enjoy God's eternal presence or not. And yet, we do stand and live before God, and many witnesses, day by day. Our families, friends, coworkers, and others see the way we live and the choices we make. Bill Hybels wrote a book called *Who You Are When No One is Looking*. The title alone should make us think about integrity, consistency, and witness in our living before God and people.

Now as an ordained pastor I do feel the privilege and responsibility of the gospel ministry. But more importantly, as a child of God, I am called to imitate Christ not because I am a pastor, but because I am a follower and disciple. This calling to be a disciple falls on all believers. For one day each one of us will stand before the judgment seat of Christ. When we do may we hear the commendation, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21).