

God Is Our Rewarder

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

Introduction

1. The promises of God help to anchor our souls in the trials of life.
2. The Hebrew writer clearly states that the faith that pleases God is one that believes He is a “rewarder” of those who diligently seek Him.
3. In this lesson we will explore the concept of “reward” according to God’s promises and this concept ought to shape the way we approach our work and our struggles in this life.

Discussion

I. Reward and Grace

- A. “Reward” translates the Greek word *misthos*, meaning wages or hire; the dues paid for work.
 1. In Hebrews 11:6, God is described as a “rewarder,” or someone who hands out or disperses the wages that are due.
 2. As in Matthew 20:8, the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, “*the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the _____ and give them their _____.’*”
- B. Salvation is by Grace.
 1. The concept of wages is not in conflict with grace, but in concert with it.
 2. Salvation itself—being made alive in Christ and seated with Him in the heavenly places—is by the grace of God, and is NOT wages.
 3. Ephesians 2:4-8: “*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, _____ us _____ together with Christ (by _____ you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus... For by _____ you have been _____ through _____, and that not of _____; it is the _____ of God, not of _____, lest anyone should boast.*”
 4. Romans 6:23: Eternal life itself is the gift of God.
 5. Therefore, when the Scriptures speak of *reward*, they do not speak of the condition of salvation or eternal life itself.

II. By Grace We Are Given the *Ability* to Bear Fruit to God.

- A. Apart from God’s grace, there is no possibility of reward. All our works are dead.
 1. This why it is impossible to be saved by simply being a “good person.” Apart from faith in Christ, all the works we do – even good works – are dead.
 2. Romans 6:20-21: “*For when you were slaves of sin, you were _____ in regard to _____. What _____ did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is _____.*”
 3. But by the grace of God, we are given eternal life, and by means of that grace we can bear fruit to God in holiness, which we could never do before Christ.

4. Romans 6:22: "But now having been set _____ from _____, and having become _____ of _____, you have your _____ to _____, and the end, _____."

B. We are rewarded according to the fruit we bear.

1. Having received eternal life by grace and the ability to bear fruit to God, our reward describes the extent of heavenly riches that are awarded to each one in heaven.
2. This is one of the core principles in Jesus' kingdom teachings.
 - a. Matthew 5:12: "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for _____ is your _____ in _____, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
 - b. Matthew 5:46: "For if you love those who love you, what _____ have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"
 - c. Matthew 6:1: "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no _____ from your _____ in _____."
 - d. Matthew 6:4, 6, 18: Who will reward us and how? _____
 - e. Matthew 25:29: "For to everyone who _____, _____ will be given, and he will have _____; but from him who does _____, even what he has will be _____."
 - f. Matthew 16:27: "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will _____ each _____ to his _____."
 - g. Colossians 3:23-24: "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the _____ you will _____ the _____ of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."

III. How To Store Up Riches in Heaven?

- A. The Scriptures make a direct correlation between the sacrifices of this life and the riches in heaven.
 1. That is, what is "sown" to the spirit (or spiritual things) in this life directly affects what we reap in eternal life.
 2. Galatians 6:8: "For he who _____ to his _____ will of the flesh reap _____, but he who sows to the _____ will of the Spirit reap _____."
 3. 2 Corinthians 9:6: "But this I say: He who sows _____ will also reap _____, and he who sows _____ will also reap _____."
- B. There are a number of things the scriptures identify as leading to reward in heaven:
 1. Matthew 18:4: Who will be the greatest in the kingdom? _____
 2. Matthew 23:11: The greatest will be _____
 3. Matthew 5:1-12: What leads to "great reward" in heaven? _____
 4. Mark 9:41 (See Matthew 25:35-40): _____
 5. Luke 6:35: Three things: _____
 6. 1 Timothy 6:18-19: How store up a good foundation? _____
 7. Hebrews 10:34-36: What has great reward? (three things) _____

Conclusion

1. The last thing on our list that leads to reward in heaven is found in 1 Peter 5:8-10.
2. The next lesson will tie the concept of "reward" directly to our study on Victory in Trials.
3. The trials of the righteous are NEVER for nothing. In them is *great reward*.