

Great Is Your Reward

“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Matthew 5:11-12)

Introduction

1. Previously, we introduced the concept of reward as it relates to our faith in God, who is a *“rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”* (Heb. 11:6).
2. In the Scriptures, the concept of reward does not conflict with grace but works in conjunction with it. That is, God’s grace brings us into a condition and gives provision, whereas our reward is what we gain by using God’s grace for its intended purpose.
3. Grace is apart from works, but our reward is according to our works. *“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work”* (Revelation 22:12).
4. In this lesson, we will connect this concept of reward as a focal point for God’s grace in overcoming trials.
5. As Jesus said in our key text for this lesson, as we endure trials, “great is your reward in heaven.”

Discussion

I. To What Does God Attribute Reward?

- A. Persecution: Matthew 5:1-12
- B. Doing good to our enemies:
 1. Proverbs 25:21-22
 2. Matthew 5:43-48
- C. Fearing God and keeping His commandments: Psalm 19:8-10
- D. Sowing righteousness:
 1. Proverbs 11:18
 2. Galatians 6:7-8
 3. Matthew 6:1-18: God will reward you openly.
 4. Matthew 10:41-42: Helping and sharing with those who are serving God.
 5. 1 Timothy 6:17-19: Doing good and sharing.
- E. Not growing weary while doing good: Galatians 6:9-10.
- F. Laboring in the kingdom: 1 Corinthians 3:8-14.
- G. Remaining faithful to the truth of the gospel.
 1. Colossians 2:18; 3:24
 2. Hebrews 10:35:
 3. 2 John 1:8
- H. Enduring when faithfulness in this life becomes difficult: Hebrews 10:36; 12:1.

II. The Reward of Endurance

- A. Trials tend to draw our focus inward to the pain, discomfort, and misery, but faith teaches us to look past the discomfort in hope of our reward.
 - a. Hebrews 11:6: *“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 _____ of those who diligently _____ Him.”*

- b. 2 Corinthians 5:6-8: "So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at _____ in the _____ we are _____ from the _____. For we walk by _____, not by _____. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be _____ from the _____ and to be _____ with the Lord."
- B. God allows trials as training to develop His righteousness within us and to teach us to long for our reward in heaven.
1. James 1:12: "_____ is the man who _____ temptation; for when he has been _____, he will _____ the _____ which the Lord has _____ to those who _____ Him."
 2. Proverbs 3:11-12: "My son, do not despise the _____ of the LORD, Nor detest His _____. For whom the LORD _____ He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he _____."
 3. Hebrews 12:11: "Now no _____ seems to be _____ for the present, but _____; nevertheless, _____ it yields the peaceable fruit of _____ to those who have been _____ by it."
- C. Job is recorded as an example of the rewards of endurance:
1. James 5:11: "Indeed we count them _____ who _____. You have heard of the _____ of Job and seen the _____ intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very _____ and _____."
 2. What did Job endure?
 - a. Job 1:13-15: _____
 - b. Job 1:16: _____
 - c. Job 1:17: _____
 - d. Job 1:18-19: _____
 - e. Job 2:7: _____
 - f. Job 2:9-10: _____
 3. Where did Job's mind go when these trials ensued?
 - a. Job 1:21-22: _____
 - b. Job 2:10: _____
 4. Job 42:10-12: What was the "end" intended by the Lord? _____

III. Promises Are Given to Those Who Endure

- A. Hebrews 10:36-39:
1. Vs. 36: You have need of _____.
 2. Vs. 39: We are not of those who _____
 3. We are of those who _____
- B. 1 Peter 1:6-7: Our goal must be to learn how to rejoice even though we are being grieved by our various trials as proof of our genuine faith.

Conclusion

1. Suffering, sorrow, and hardship tend to pull our attention away from God and His promises.
2. Faith, love, and hope help us override that temptation and develop within us strength, patience, and righteousness if we are willing to be trained by the things we suffer.
3. This is true for all trials in this life (Romans 8:31-39).