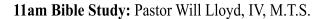
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Topic: Heavenly Rewards - Session Two Topical Series Feb. 14th, 2024

Week Two - What Does The Bible Say About Heavenly Rewards /

Intro - Heavenly Rewards come not from asking, but from **"Doing."** The Rewards that Jesus wanted us to know about most, **don't come now,** they'll come in Heaven, so let's commit our hearts to serving God, and laying up **"Heavenly Treasures."** Every person on earth regardless of circumstance or ability, has an <u>equal opportunity</u> to **please Jesus** and receive His "<u>well done, good and faithful servant</u>."

Illustration: Bruce and His Wife Moving

Jesus taught us: John 15:8, NKJV, 8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."

Jesus taught us: John 5:22-23, NKJV, 22 For the Father judges no one, but has <u>committed all judgment to the Son</u>, 23 <u>that all should honor the Son</u> just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

A.What Behaviors And Actions Lived Out Today Will Jesus Reward Us For In Heaven?

a. Seeking Jesus: Studying/Praying/Fasting/Faith - 2Tim. 3:16-17, 2:15, Matt. 6:6, 16-18, Heb. 11:6

b.<u>Be Faithful Stewards On Our Job/Work As Worship/Preparation For Work</u> - Matt. 24:45-51, Col. 3:23-25, Matt.5:1-13 c.<u>Self-Denial</u>: Galatians 2:20

d.<u>Serving And Sharing With Those in Need</u> - 1 Cor.3:5-8, Mark 9:41, Luke 14:13-14, Matt. 6:3-4, 1Tim.6:17-19 e.<u>Suffering And Sacrificing For Jesus' Name Proving Faith</u> - 1Pet.1:3-9, Heb.10:34-39, Luke 6:22-23;35, Matt.19:29 f.Doctrinal Integrity - 2 John 1:7-10

g. Watching For Christ's Return - Luke 12:35-38, 2 Peter 3:10-14

We must **HONOR JESUS** with obedient wholehearted prayerful service, so that He can work **THROUGH US** to save, help, and encourage a **BROKEN WORLD**.

Galatians 6:7-10, NKJV, 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for <u>whatever a man sows</u>, that <u>he will also reap</u>. 8 For he who **sows to his flesh** will of the flesh **reap corruption**, but he who **sows to the Spirit** will of the Spirit **reap everlasting life**. 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, <u>for in due season we shall reap **if we do not lose heart**</u>.

Prosperity Theology Gets It Wrong With God's Timing Of Rewards: These false teachers assume that rewards are here and now, while scriptures teach us that the greatest rewards will not be here and now, but **THEN** and **THERE**!

Illustration: Two Farmers - An atheist and A Believer:

"Persecution" - 2 Tim.3:12, "But For A Moment" - 2 Cor.4:16-18

B.What Type Of Rewards Will Jesus Give Us In Heaven?

a.<u>Special Privileges Intimate Fellowship With Christ To Those Who Overcome</u> - Rev.2:7- Eternal Life, v.11- escape Eternal Death, v.17- New Name

b.<u>Reward Of Rulership And Special Responsibilities</u> - Rev.20:6 - Spiritual Leaders & Reign with Christ, 1Cor.6:3 - Rule & Judge Angels, 2 Tim.2:11-12 - Live & Reign With Him: *Our Work and Responsibilities in the New Heaven & New Earth will be so fulfilling and rewarding*. Think of things you love to do because you're **passionate about them**. *Isn't it*

true that you rarely feel tired, and *it seems like you can do it endlessly*? The reason it's this way is because that activity is a labor of love for you. It doesn't feel like work or service, because you love it so much. What are those things for you?

c.Special Honors

- Crown Of Discipline/Incorruption 1Cor.9:24-27
- Crown Of Life James 1:12, Rev.2:10 overcome temptation & persecution
- Crown Of Glory 1 Peter 5:1-4 For Faithful Spiritual Leaders
- Crown Of Rejoicing 1 Thess.2:19-20, Phil 4:1 For Those Who Accepted Jesus When We Shared Him
- Crown Of Righteousness 2 Tim. 4:6-8 For fighting the good fight, finishing the race, keeping the faith

We must guard our crowns carefully; that no one may take them. - Rev.3:11

MOTIVATION - the doctrine of ETERNAL REWARDS for our obedience is the NEGLECTED KEY to unlocking our motivation.

Our biblical heroes were motivated by Heavenly Rewards:

- Moses' Motivation Hebrews 11:24-29
- Paul's Motivation 1 Cor.9:24-24, NLT, Romans 1:16-17 unashamed of the gospel
- Jesus' Motivation Heb.12:1-2 Endured for Joy of Heaven, Phil. 2:1-9 humble for Heaven's Reward

Desiring Rewards is proper motivation for serving Christ. Some will diminish the desire for heavenly rewards for service to God, in an attempt to seem "**spiritual**," but that's to tell our Father God that you don't want the wonderful things He desires to bless us with in the **New Heaven and New Earth**. *None of us are more "spiritual*" than Moses, *Paul, and Jesus and they all sought to secure Heavenly Rewards from their Father in Heaven, and they did AMAZING "good works" for God*. Could it be that seeking Eternal Rewards is the **MISSING LINK** that has prevented us from doing the **AMAZING "good works"** for God that He's prepared for us long ago? (Eph.2:10)

- Don't misunderstand my use of "amazing." Anything a repentant believer does in service to Jesus, for God's glory alone, is AMAZING, because their life could have been used by Satan to build up his kingdom instead of being used by God to build up His Kingdom! - Glory, Hallelujah!

<u>God Rewards</u> - **Other's centered sacrifice**, and <u>punishes self-centered indulgence</u>. This system, not our personal preferences, should be our reference point in deciding what to do with our lives, our time, our money, and possessions. How will we use our Power, Pleasures, and Possessions?

Key: If we don't recognize God's Law Of Rewards, if we fail to live by it, "WE LOSE." <u>We'll miss out on eternal</u> <u>benefits Jesus freely offered us, and wanted us to have.</u>

If we live by this, Jesus will always be pleased, and we will come out ahead, FOREVER in the place we'll spend the most time of our lives, our Heavenly Home.