



11am Bible Study: Pastor Will Lloyd, IV, M.T.S.

Topic: Heavenly Rewards - Session Three
Topical Series
Mar. 6, 2024

Session Three - What Will Happen On The Day Of Reward / How To Evaluate & Test If Our Works Will Endure / Understanding Degrees Of Reward In Heaven and Degrees of Penalty In Hell

Intro - Illustration: Missionaries Coming Home

What will happen on the day of reward?

2 Cor.5:10, NKJV, 10 For we must all appear before the *judgment seat of Christ*, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether *good* or *bad*.

Matthew 25:31-34, 41, NKJV, - The Final Judgment

How to evaluate and test if our works will endure?

1 Cor.3:5-17, NKJV, - The evaluation process

Serve with *Jesus Christ as our foundation*, building lifestyles of service for *God's glory alone*. God will work "through us" for His glory to save, teach, encourage, and build His Kingdom. *Fire*, meaning *Jesus' Judgment seat*, will reveal whether our work was built with material things and selfish pursuits & motives, or (spiritual things & pursuit of God's glory.)

After the "Fire Test" of the Judgment Seat of Jesus, we'll know our rewards. The *AMOUNT OF REWARDS* will depend on the *INTEGRITY*, *FAITHFULNESS*, and *MOTIVES* of service.

Satan will tempt us to turn our backs on pursuing Heavenly Rewards, by tempting us in the areas of *PLEASURES*, *POSSESSIONS*, & *POWER*.

-God has built us to be motivated by these desires, but Satan desires to get us to corrupt our pursuit of these in worship of him instead of God. - *too many of us, believers and non-believers are enslaved in sin due to corrupt pursuit of these*.
- expound **marriages** (christian and non-christian), **workplaces** (christian and non-christian)

1 John 2:16 - 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh (*Pleasures*), the lust of the eyes (*Possessions*), and the pride of life (*Power*)—is not of the Father but is of the world.

Luke 4:3, 5-6, 9-11 - Satan tempted Jesus with *Pleasures*, *Possessions*, & *Power* as well.

We can have *pleasures, possessions, and power* now, as it aligns in God's will, but *God's ultimate desire* is for us to seek ultimate fulfillment of these things *in Heaven*, where pursuit of these things won't be tainted in slightest by sin.

Matthew 6:31-33, NKJV, 31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'" 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For *your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things*. 33 But *seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness*, and all these things shall be added to you.

1 Cor. 4:5b, NKJV, 5b.....until the Lord comes, who will both *bring to light the hidden things of darkness* and *reveal the counsels of the hearts*. Then each one's praise will come from God.

Jesus' Judgment, "*the fire test*," will reveal what we did, and how and why we did it.

Genuine & Good Behavior, always begins with the heart. Read: Luke 6:43-45, NKJV

3 Test: Gleaned From Jesus' Teaching: As the **GOLD STANDARD** of *Evaluating* if our work for God will **Endure**.

#1 **The Test of Relationship** - abiding in **Relationship** to Jesus allows **Fruit Bearing**. Without that **Relationship**, we can't do anything that will pass the "Judgment Seat Test." - **Read John 15:5**

#2 **The Test of Motive** - charitable deeds and **Service to God** should be done for **God's Glory Alone**, not to be seen by men or for popularity. - **Read Matthew 6:1-4**

-Our most "**Religious Actions**" are worthless if our motive is to build up our own egos or reputations.

#3 **The Test of Love** - "true good works" are always focused on sincerely trying to improve the well-being of another. **Read 1 Cor.13:3**

Question For Reflection: Is it possible that a saved believer could step into eternity at the Judgment Seat of Christ and show up with few Good Works to show for his or her lifetime on earth? Yes, and that's a tragic and eye opening prospect we must avoid at **ALL COST**.

We can actually do a **GOOD WORK** and then **LOSE OUR REWARD** for it: **Read 2 John 1:8**

We should Serve In A Way that we can approach our Savior at the Judgment Seat *humbly*, and yet with *confidence*. **Read 1 John 2:28**

At the Judgment Seat of Christ, although *everything will be laid bare for the believer*, Bruce Wilkinson says that Regret and Shame won't follow us to Heaven from suffering a loss of reward, since as we know that there are no more tears of sorrow in Heaven. He says Jesus won't love us any less or any more than He did when He died at Calvary.

However, *the more faithful we are as believers*, the more rewards we'll have in Heaven, because there are degrees of rewards in Heaven. Also *the more evil non-believers are* the more torture they'll have in Hell.

Understanding Degrees of Reward In Heaven and Degrees Of Penalty In Hell

Key Truth Needed For Understanding Degrees - The believers' evil works (sin) can't lessen the Joys of Heaven, and the non-believers' good works can never lessen the torment in Hell. No believer will get to Heaven and after receiving their degree of rewards say, "**this isn't a joyful place**," even if they can tell that others received more rewards than them, because remember Heaven is a perfect place without sin, so **there will be no jealousy or ungratefulness about our rewards**. On the flip side, no non-believer, even if they did only little evil will say about hell, "**this place isn't a tortuous place**."

Here's how best to understand it:

- Heaven *never gets worse, only better*.
- Hell *never gets better, only worse*.

As believers, our pursuit of **Heavenly Rewards** is so that we can secure the "**BEST**" experience in Heaven that God desires for us. - **expound gated community example**.

Degrees: Rev. 22:12 - Jesus on Degrees, Matthew 11:23-24 - "More Tolerable", Romans 2:5-8 - "according to deeds", James 3:1 - Stricter judgment for teachers, Matthew 23:14 - degrees in hell, Rev. 18:6-7 - degrees in Hell, Luke 19:17 - degrees in Heaven, Matthew 25:21 - degrees in Heaven