

ETERNAL REWARDS

Jesus warned us about storing up treasures on the earth, which causes us to be poor toward God. He explained that we set our hearts on earthly treasures because of greed and as a form of security. He encouraged His disciples to adopt a lifestyle that looked to the Lord for provisions one day at a time. He also explained that when we devoted ourselves to the Lord and to His kingdom, we would be storing up treasures in heaven. These treasures are called eternal rewards.

Christian Motivation: Many believers have been taught to fear the Lord. Many of us have the idea that God is looking for opportunities to repay us for our sin and evil. While it is true that God disciplines His children, He only does so to bring us to mature obedience so that we the capacity to be blessed. The exception is the believer who has permanently turned to evil. That believer will die the sin unto death (1Jn 5:16-17). God's primary motivation is the promise of blessing & reward. God wants to bless & reward us.

1. God uses (A) fear of the Lord, (B) divine discipline and (C) the promise of blessing and reward to motivate us to service.

Fear of Lord. (1Sam 11:7; 2Chr 14:14; 17:10; 19:7, 9; Psa 19:9; Prov 10:27)

- Prov 1:7 Fear / Lord is the beginning of knowledge – not the end but the beginning
- Prov 3:7 Don't be wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord and reject evil
- Psm 34:11 Must be taught the fear of the Lord – word of God
- 1Jn 4:7-19 Mature motivation – love for God w/out fear

Divine Discipline (Deut 8:5; Job 5:17; Prov 3:11-12; Isa 26:16; Heb 12:5-11)

- Deut 8:5 As a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you
- Job 5:17 Happy is the man whom God disciplines – do not despise His discipline
- Heb 12:5-11 God's training program — brings about the peaceful fruit righteousness.

Motivates & enables us to change belief system from OM to NM

- 2Cor 7:7-10 Godly sorrow motivates repentance without regret
- Sin à SIM & discipline à sorrow à change of mind à recovery

Promise of blessing & reward (Gen 26:12; Mt 5:12; 6:1-6, 18; 19:29; Mk 10:30; 1Cor 3:8, 14; Col 2:18, 24; Heb 10:35; 11:26; 2Jn 1:8; Rev 22:12)

- Gen 12:1-5 Abrahamic Covenant – obey me 7 I will bless you and your family
- Gen 26:24 Isaac – I will bless you and multiply your seed
- Josh 1:2-9 Joshua and the nation of Israel – promise of blessing
- Psm 29:11 The Lord gives His people strength and blesses them with peace

Beatitudes – happiness's (Pl) Jn 13:17 makarios – know the word and do it

- Jesus in the 4 gospels; Paul Rom 14:22; James 1:12,25; Peter 1Pt 3:14; 4:14

Rewards: Given in eternity for good works done in time

- Mt 16:27 Christ returns & rewards every man according to his works
- Mt 5:11-12 Persecution – rejoice & be glad – great reward in heaven
- Mt 6:4 Giving money – in secret; rewarded openly
- 1Cor 3:5-15 Good works tested by fire – remains = reward; burned = suffer loss
- 1Cor 9:23-27 Run the race for the prize – endure so as to not lose reward
- Col 3:23-24 Rewarded for serving the Lord with your heart
- 2Tim 4:7-8 Finished the race – crown of righteousness
- Heb 11:26 Moses rejected riches of Egypt – looking to his eternal reward
- Rev 22:12 I come quickly; my reward is with me; every man according to his deeds

2. Rewards are awarded in eternity for faithful service to Christ in time.

The concept of rewards - 1Cor 3:5-15 & the basis of rewards 1Cor 4:1-5

- 1Cor 3:5-15 – Concept of Rewards for Christian Service
- 1Cor 3:5-8 – servants planting & watering who receive a reward

misthos – that which God bestows in eternity upon believer's for faithful service.

- 1Cor 3:10 – service performed through “grace operating assets” (GOA)
- GOA = GHS + CBD + SG – supernatural ability to edify the church of Jesus Christ
- Paul & Apollos Master Builders – their gifted area of service
- 1Cor 3:12-15 – Each man’s work – specific choices we make to live the CWL
- The work made manifest & brought to light on that day – Judgment Seat of Christ
- Fire test – work remains = rewards; work burns = suffer loss of reward
- Our service in time will be tested for validity and we will be rewarded accordingly

1Cor 4:1-5 – The Basis of Valid Work

- 1Cor.4:1-2 – Servants huperetes – attendants & stewards oikonomos – managers - faithful
- Faithfulness – consistent, dependable, trustworthy, reliable through suffering
- 1Cor.4:3-5 – do not judge by appearances – Lord will bring to light the motives/heart – praise
- Man is not qualified to judge – Paul didn’t consider himself a reliable judge
- God examines motives of the heart – boule – counsel, plan, intentions
- 1Sam 16:7 man looks on outward appearance; God looks on the heart
- Promote God, not self; glorify God, not self – God serving, not self serving
- Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

3. When we utilize grace blessings (goa) to have victory in time, God places corresponding eternal rewards in our account in heaven.

- Eph 1:3 – blessing created before the foundation of the world pneumatikos eulogia
- Grace Operating Assets (GOA) – God-Holy Spirit; Laws of Divine Establishment; Gospel of Salvation; Categorical Bible Doctrine; Logistical Grace; Local Church; Spiritual Gifts; Adversities of Life; Opposition of the Devil
- Spiritual blessings (GOA) created in eternity and placed in your personal account
- GOA enable believer to grow/maturity & develop capacities in all circumstances
- GOA made available for use in dealing with every aspect & stage of life in time.
- Devil’s devices & adversities/life perfectly & specifically supplied as opportunities
- Jam 1:2-4 – joy when encounter various trials; test of faith à spiritual maturity
- The use of GOA enables believer to be joyful & enjoy victory over adversity
- The use of CBD by faith glorifies God – proves the power/validity of His word
- The use of GOA for victory à God places rewards in our eternal account

4. Eternal rewards glorify God’s grace, not the believer’s works.

- Ephesians 2:7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.
- All Christian works that God rewards are the result of using God’s grace.
- God set everything up beforehand as an opportunity to manifest His grace
- Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- Rev 4:10 – The elders cast their crowns at the foot of the throne – His crowns
- Isaiah 42:8 "I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.