

LIFE CHANGING STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

“REWARDS”

In our last lecture we saw the only way to get to heaven was to receive “righteousness by faith”. To be clothed in the invisible garment of righteousness that only God can see. At the same time to receive forgiveness of sins and everlasting life.

In Jeremiah 31:34. God gives a promise for the future, for the nation of Israel and it is a promise that applies to all people that come to know the Lord. “I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” But there is something God will remember and reward in heaven, that is, how we live, and how we serve him after we have received ,”righteousness by faith,” “forgiveness of sins,” and “everlasting life”

It is time we all became serious about living for the Lord. When we accept Christ as our saviour, heaven becomes our home, this world is not our home any longer, we now are to live for God. We are to live for, and serve God in this world and be rewarded for it in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 tells how every Christian should live. “Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”

Heaven and eternal life are a gift, but rewards are for faithful living and service. In the above verses the apostle Paul is saying that whether we are alive, living in our bodies or away from our bodies living with the Lord in heaven our goal should be the same, to please Jesus. When we die as believers, our soul, our spirit, our conscious personality, goes to be with the Lord where we should be continuing to do what we were supposed to be doing on earth.

It's like in the Lord's prayer. “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Paul also tells us that we will all, as believers, stand, one by one, at the Judgment Seat of Christ to have our Christian life reviewed. There we will receive what is due to us. What we did, how we lived our Christian lives, how we fulfilled the work God gave us to do. This will be examined and we will either receive rewards or loss of rewards.

The judgment seat of Christ is not to do with our sins but to do with our service. Remember God says to all true believers, all those who accept Christ as their personal saviour, who acknowledge that they are sinners and believe Christ died for their sins and rose again, he says, "I will forgive their wickedness and remember their sins no more." Jeremiah 31:34.

But there is something that God will remember as it is expressed in Hebrews 5:10 "God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them."

God is perfectly fair, here are two Christians, one, after coming to Christ, lives an on/off Christian life. They serve God now and again. They waste a few years in a backslidden state through wrong choices. They keep coming back to God proving they are a true believer but you can't say they lived a successful Christian life. The other Christian, when they accepted Christ, fully dedicated themselves to the Lord and at great sacrifice and at times persecution faithfully followed and served the Lord for the rest of their life. Both of them will only get to heaven because they have forgiveness of sins and righteousness by faith, the undeserved gift of God but because God is just and fair they will be rewarded differently at the judgment seat of Christ.

The first Christian, may get a few rewards but they will largely suffer loss, they will be in heaven but some of the praise and glory they could have given to God will be missing, some of the joy they could have given to the heart of God will also be missing. Heaven will be wonderful for them but it could have been more wonderful.

The second Christian would be recompensed with many rewards bringing great glory to God and most of all he would have the Lord say to him, "Well done good and faithful servant enter in to the joy of your Lord."

I suppose all of us are somewhere in between those two extremes. It is never too late to dedicate ourselves to the Lord to be all he wants us to be, because we all one day will stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

I plan in our next lecture to look more at some of the things we will be rewarded for and what the rewards will be.

**THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST
FOR CHRISTIANS**



**WILL HE BE ABLE TO SAY THAT TO US
OR WILL WE BE ASHAMED?**

**IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT
BEING A CHRISTIAN.**

FRANK HUTCHINSON