

LIFE CHANGING STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

“FOR WHAT WILL WE BE REWARDED?”

We will be rewarded for good works. We can't be saved by good works, we can't get to heaven by good works but we will be rewarded in heaven for good works we did after we were saved by grace. We have received forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life by accepting Jesus Christ as our own personal saviour. Now we are to spend the rest of our lives doing good works. In Ephesians 2:8-10 we read,

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Before we come to Christ it is, “Not of works” “Not of works” After we come to Christ it is, “Do good works” “ Do good works” When we come to Christ we are saved from the eternal judgment of God for our sins. But as believers we all have to face the judgment seat of Christ where we will have our Christian life reviewed. Did we fulfil all God planned for us, what was the quality of our work. It will result in rewards and loss of rewards according to what we did.

So what are we going to be rewarded for? Let's look at some scriptures. Matthew 5:11,12. “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

If you, because you are a Christian, suffer persecution, people speaking bad about you, yet you remain true to the Lord you are going to get a great reward in heaven. The reverse will also be true, if you retaliate, do back bad to them that are doing it to you then you will lose that reward. I believe if we go through any kind of suffering, including sickness, and stay strong in the Lord we will be rewarded in heaven.

Matthew 6:1-4. “Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

In other words, if we do all our good works that others might admire us. Then that's the only reward we will get, we will not get rewards in heaven done for the glory of self.

But good works we do for the glory of God will certainly receive rewards in heaven. A Christian man I knew was full of good works. One day I visited a widow whose husband had died leaving her with a large family. She happened to be out but as I arrived I saw this “full of good works” Christian man digging and probably planting in her vegetable garden. He was about to go before she got home. I just happened to catch him, he was doing this kind thing in secret as unto the Lord. I don’t know if the lady knew it was him doing it or not, but he was certainly doing it not for the praise of men.

Matthew 6:5,6. “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close your door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

Prayer is one of the most important things we can do. God works in answer to prayer, but it must be real prayer from the heart, not show off prayer. Someone came to me once and said how they had just spent all night in prayer, I felt they were trying to impress me. If that was so, they will lose their reward for that all night praying. It doesn’t mean we can’t pray in public but when we do it should never be to impress others.

Mark 9:41. “I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.” Even the giving of a simple cup of water given in the name of the Lord will receive a reward on that day.

This is such a big subject, so I will have to continue it in my next lecture. But to finish today what about the reward for being used to influence others to come to God? Daniel 12:3 “Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.”

To live for God and to seek to get others to do the same is the wisest thing you can do and also, you need to be wise to know how to do it. We can’t comprehend this reward, to shine for ever and ever. What does that mean? I don’t know but it must be something wonderful to shine bringing glory to God forever.



THAT'S THE ONLY REWARD HE WILL GET,
THE PRAISE OF MEN.



HE MAY FACE PERSECUTION, TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS,
BUT IF HE REMAINS FAITHFUL TO THE LORD,
GREAT WILL BE HIS REWARD IN HEAVEN.