

LIFE CHANGING STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

“REWARDS AND LOSS”

I want to continue a little more on the subject of rewards for Christians. I think most of us will receive some rewards and some loss. Who among us can claim to be totally faithful all the time, who among us can claim to have done everything for the glory of God and never taken some of the glory for ourselves?

Paul tells us what it will be like on that day at the judgment seat of Christ for Christians when our work for God is examined. Corinthians 3:5-9 “What after all is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labour. For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.”

The apostle Paul was writing to the Christians in Corinth. They had been fussing over who was their favourite teacher, some preferred Paul, others preferred Apollos, but Paul is saying both he and Apollos were only servants of God, each given a specific task to do, each would be used in a different way but it was God who was using them. He used Paul to plant the church as he preached the gospel and Apollos to nurture the church. They would be rewarded according to their faithfulness in fulfilling the work God had given them to do.

So it is with us as Christians, we each are given different works to do, one is not better than the other even though some are given bigger responsibilities than others, all will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to have their works tested.

Let’s see what it will be like. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. “By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.”

Paul is saying he laid the foundation of the gospel of Jesus Christ at Corinth. The firm rock that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died for our sins and rose again victorious over death and that he alone is the only way to God. This resulted in many Corinthians accepting Christ as their Saviour and the church was formed. Apollos and others came later and built on that

foundation, teaching the church how to grow in Christ as well as more people being won for the Lord. The truth is we all are given work to do for the Lord and on that Day our work will be tested, the Day in the future when we stand before the judgment seat of Christ for Christians.

Paul says our works will be tested by fire and that it is possible to do, gold works, silver works, costly stone works or wood works, hay works or straw works. The wood, hay and straw works will quickly burn up but the gold, silver and costly stone works will survive the fire and be rewarded.

So let's look at the wood ,hay, straw works first. Doing your good works for the glory of self instead of the glory of God will be burnt up. Preaching, teaching, giving, praying, doing good deeds etc to get the applause of men will all be burnt up. Teaching false doctrine like all religions lead to God, that your good works will get you to heaven, that your church or your denomination is the only true church etc, will all be burnt up.

So what are the gold, silver and costly stone works? Whatever we do because we love God and are thankful to Him for forgiving our sins will not be burnt up. Giving up things that we might more fully serve God will not be burnt up. Kindnesses we have shown to others that we have forgotten about will not be burnt up. In fact if we live as this verse says we will have much gold, silver and costly stones, 1Corinthians 10:31 "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

I think all of us will have some things burnt up and some things pass the test and receive rewards. I think the rewards will be surprises of a wonderful nature that God has not fully told us about yet.

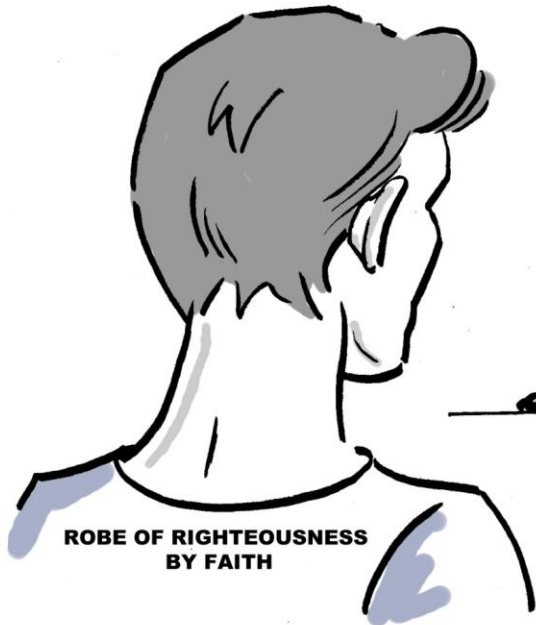
What does Paul mean in this last verse v 15) "If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames." I believe it is a picture of a house burnt to the ground and the owner escapes just in time to save his life but he loses all his possessions and is left just with the clothes he is standing up in. He has suffered loss but he is grateful he still has his life.

So it would be if a Christian had all their works burnt up they would still have that invisible robe of righteous by faith which is the only way we can get into heaven however they would suffer great loss but would still have eternal life.

I find it hard to believe that a real Christian will have all their works burnt up, I think we all will receive at least some reward but not as much as we could have if we had been more faithful.

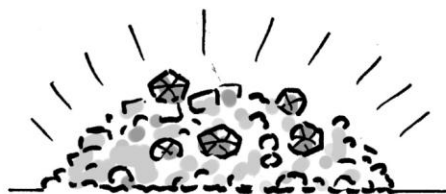
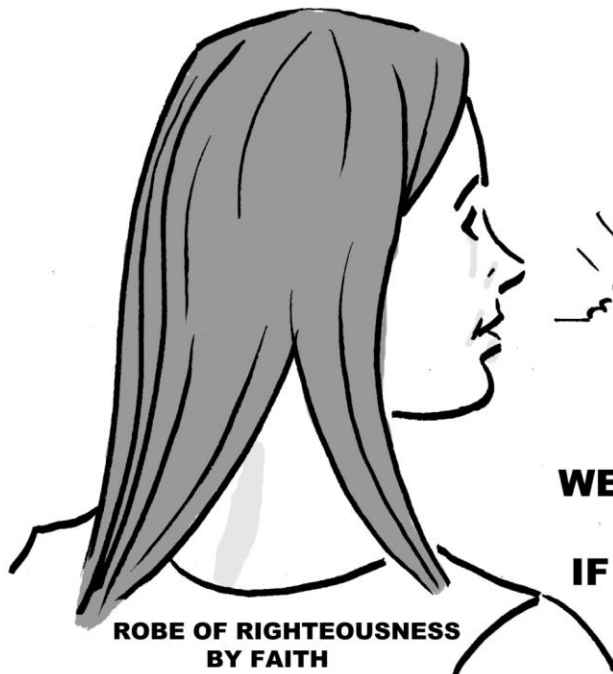
AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST FOR CHRISTIANS

SUFFER LOSS



**WORKS OF
WOOD, HAY AND STRAW**

REWARDS !



**WORKS OF GOLD, SILVER
AND COSLY STONES**

**WE BRING GREAT GLORY
TO GOD
IF OUR WORK SURVIVES
THE FIRE.**

