

The Christians Reward

Will all Christians be equally happy in heaven? Will every Christian attain the same common level in eternity? Do you believe that the lukewarm Christians and the ones living red-hot lives for God . . . the carnal Christians and the spiritual Christians . . . the idle Christians and the active ones . . . serving Christians and slacking Christians . . . will all receive the same rewards in their heavenly state? Does the way we live down here on earth have any bearing on our heavenly existence? Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "*Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven*" (Matthew 6:20).

In these messages I want you to see that God's Word teaches the Christian's life . . . his careless living . . . every forgotten duty . . . every neglected opportunity . . . every forfeited privilege . . . will all be taken into account when he stands before Christ and receives his eternal reward. All these will be taken into consideration at time of rewards and will not all be just forgotten when he dies.

2 Corinthians 5:10 teaches, "*For we (Christians). must (there's no escaping) all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*"

HOW DO WE "LAY UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN ?"

Jesus said in Matthew 6:1, "*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.*"

[Christ also teaches here to "*pray in secret*" –
and "*fast in secret,*" in order to receive an eternal reward.]

1 Corinthians 3:8-15 teaches, "*Each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers . . . (laborers together with God) . . . 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.*"

1 Corinthians 4:5 states, "*Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.*"

Romans 2:6-7 teaches, "*God will give to each person according to what he has done. To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.*"

Romans 14:12 teaches, "*So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.*"

Jesus says in Revelation 22:12, "*Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with Me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.*"

We are told in 2 John 1:8 to, "*Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.*"

**OUR APPRECIATION FOR HEAVEN WILL BE
ACCORDING TO OUR LIFE HERE ON EARTH!**

**We cannot live just any old way we want too –
and expect to enjoy the highest possible bliss in heaven!**

1 Corinthians 15:41-42 teaches, "*The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor, so it will be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable.*" All saints will rise, however, just like the orbs of the universe differ in glory, there will be a great difference . . . not in their bodies, but, rather, in their attainments.

**OUR CAPACITY TO ENJOY THE RESURRECTED STATE
DEPENDS ON OUR LIFE ON EARTH!**

Luke 6:23 says, "*Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because **great** is your reward in heaven.*"

In 2 Timothy 1:12 Paul states, "*That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.*"

In 2 Timothy 2:5 he states, "*Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules.*" In verse 20, he says, "*In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble,*" meaning, lowly use or menial service.

And, in 2 Timothy 4:7-8 Paul states, "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day - and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.*"

Jesus taught in Matthew 25:17, speaking of the Christian's reward in heaven, "*So also, the one with the two talents gained two more.*" In verse.23, He says, "*Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness.*"

1 Corinthians 9:25-27 tells us, "*Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*"

Colossians 3:23-25 teaches, "*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.*"

2 Peter 1:10-11 says, "*Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*"

Do you think that Abraham and Lot will enter into heaven on the same equal footing? Do you think that those who have borne the heat of the battle will stand on the same plane as slackers? The answer is, of course, **No!**

1 Corinthians 3:8 teaches us, "*Each will be rewarded according to his own labor.*" Every hour that one has prayed . . . every tear that he has shed . . . every trial he has suffered . . . every service which he has rendered . . . will all be taken into account at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Are we not commanded to "*strive for the masteries,*" to "*work heartily as unto the Lord, knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive your reward?*" Are we not told to "*by patient continuance in well doing, seek for glory?*"

1 John 2:28 teaches us, "*Now, dear children, continue in Him, so that when He appears we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming.*"

Hebrews 10:34-36 states, "*You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.*"

Jesus tells us, "*Behold I come quickly and My reward is with Me to give to every man according as his work shall be!*"

Would you want to die as you are? There is time to change!