



A Traveler's Guide to the Afterlife

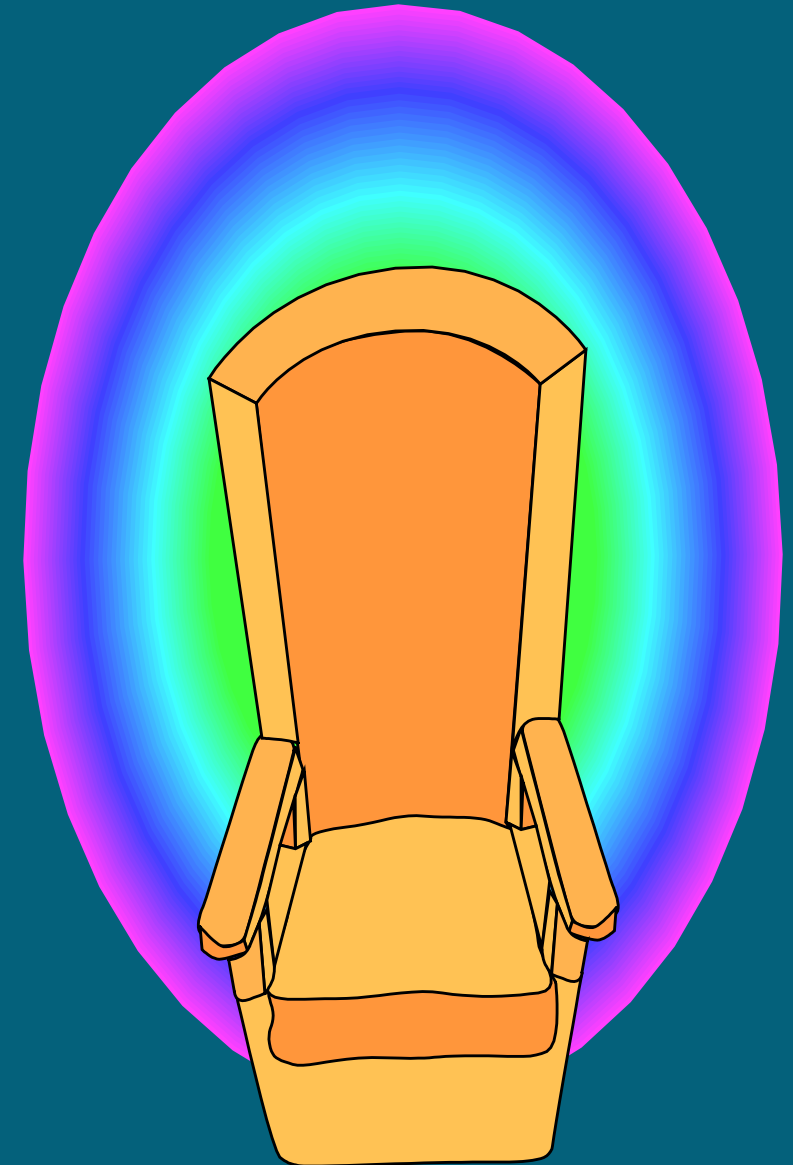
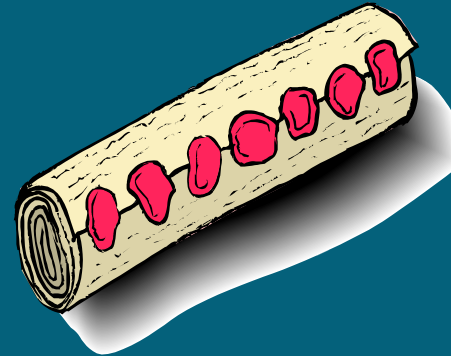
A Bible Literacy Study Guide on the Eternal Destiny of the Individual
Dr. Timothy Gordon

The Day of Judgment and Rewards

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The Afterlife

Hades (NT)

Paradise

New Heaven & New Earth
(Rev. 21:27)



Body Dies
(Eccl. 12:7)

Spirit →

← *Spirit*

Paradise

Lazarus, Jesus, thief on cross, OT righteous dead



Great Gulf
(Luke 16:26)

Tartarus

rich man, angels who sinned, OT wicked dead



Sheol (OT)

Eph. 4:8-9

1 Thess. 4:13-18

2nd Coming & Resurrection

2nd Coming & Resurrection

Judgment
2 Cor. 5:10

Mt. 25:46

Mt. 25:41

Hell
(Rev. 21:8)

The Judgment Defined



- Throughout the Bible it is accepted that people are accountable to God. Good deeds are commended and evil deeds are blamed. The day of judgment is the culmination of the whole process.
- At the end of this world order God will judge all people and all deeds. Nothing will be excepted; every secret thing, good or bad, will be brought into judgment (Eccl 12:14).
- Sometimes, of course, judgment is seen as a present activity (Ezek 7:7-8), but there is also strong emphasis on final judgment, the judgment at the end of this world system as we know it, a judgment that ushers in the final state of affairs.
- This will be a judgment of all the nations, for the Lord "comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his truth" (Ps 96:13).

The Judgment Defined



- There will be judgment on Israel (Ps 50:4) and there will also be judgment on the whole Gentile world (Ps 9:8; Rom 14:10; Rev 20:11-15).
- It may be spoken of strictly as "the day of judgment" (Matt 10:15; 1 John 4:17), or with reference to its chronological place as "the last day" (John 6:39).
- Mostly John's references to this day refer to Jesus' raising of people but he also tells us that Jesus said that the word that he spoke would on the last day judge anyone who despised him and refused to hear his words (John 12:48).
- The most common way of referring to it appears to be simply "that day" (Luke 21:34); the day of judgment was so outstanding that nothing more was needed to draw attention to it.

The Judgment Defined



- Sometimes the day is characterized by the outcome of it all. Thus it is "the day of redemption" (Eph 4:30).
- In one sense redemption is accomplished here and now when the sinner comes to trust Christ, but in another sense the Day of Judgment seals it all.
- For the finally impenitent sinner it is "the great day of his wrath" (Rev 6:17), "the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed" (Rom 2:5).
- This decisive day then is the culmination of the history of the world. A judgment will take place from which there is no appeal.

Significant Scriptures



- Ecclesiastes 12:14—For *God will bring every deed into judgment*, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.
- Matthew 12:36—I tell you, on the day of *judgment* people will give *account* for every careless word they speak,
- Acts 17:31—because *he has fixed a day* on which he will *judge* the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."
- John 5:22—The Father *judges* no one, but has given all *judgment* to the Son,
- John 12:48—The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a *judge*; the word that I have spoken will *judge* him on the *last day*.
- 2 Corinthians 5:10—For we must all *appear* before the *judgment* seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Significant Scriptures



- Romans 14:10-12—10 Why do you pass *judgment* on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the *judgment* seat of God; 11 for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." 12 So then each of us will give an *account* of himself to God.
- Revelation 20:11-13—11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the *book of life*. And the dead were *judged* by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. 13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were *judged*, each one of them, according to what they had done.

Matthew 25:31-46



31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'

37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?

38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?

Matthew 25:31-46



39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,

43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

44 Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?'

45 Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Teaching of Jesus



- Jesus emphasized the importance of final judgment.
- He told the Twelve that they were to warn their hearers that it would be "more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah" on the day of judgment than for them (Matt 10:15).
- He himself had a similar message for the people of Chorazin and Bethsaida: It will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on judgment day than for them (Matt 11:22; Luke 10:14).
- On both occasions he warned that the people of Capernaum should not think of heaven as their final destination; that would rather be Hades.
- "The men of Nineveh" and "The Queen of the South" will stand up and condemn Jesus' hearers at the day of judgment because they responded to the wisdom of Solomon and the preaching of Jonah and those hearers did not (Matt 12:41-42).

The Teaching of Jesus



- We should be clear that Jesus unhesitatingly spoke of judgment day and of what would happen on it.
- Jesus also related the words uttered by his hearers to what will happen at the day of judgment.
- It is what goes on in our hearts that determines what we say and thus our words are important; our words reveal what we are.
- On the day of judgment we will be called on to give account of "every careless word" we have spoken and it is this that will determine our acquittal or our condemnation (Matt 12:34-37).

The Purpose of the Judgment Publication and Execution



- **There is a difference between a "human trial" and the "Divine trial" of which we speak...**
 - o A "human trial" is primarily a process of INVESTIGATION, in which the judge and jury are trying to learn the truth
 - o The "Divine trial" is presided by an omniscient Judge with perfect knowledge, so the purpose of this judgment is one of PUBLICATION and EXECUTION of the sentence - cf. **2 Cor 5:10** ("that each one may receive...")

The Purpose of the Judgment

Glorify and Vindicate God



- **Another purpose is to "glorify" God for His grace, and to "vindicate" God for His justice**
 - o Why is it that some sinners are lost, and other sinners are saved?
 - o How can God be just in condemning lost persons who never heard the gospel of Christ?
 - o At the judgment, those currently ignorant of the answers to such questions...
 - Will be made aware and come to see that God has been both just and gracious in His efforts throughout the history of mankind
 - Those condemned will come to fully realize they can blame no one but themselves!

The Time of the Judgment

Separate Judgments?



- **Some believe in a series of separate judgments...**
 - Some including those of the dispensational premillennial persuasion, believe there will be...
 - A judgment of the believer's works at the time of the "rapture"
 - A judgment of individual Gentiles just before the millennium
 - A judgment of Israel just before the millennium
 - A judgment of the wicked dead after the millennium
 - Just as we saw concerning the resurrection, the same may be said about the judgment
 - There will be but one bodily resurrection, and that at the "last day"
 - So there will be just one "day of judgment".

The Time of the Judgment

When Will the Final Judgment Occur?



- At the end of the present age, at which time the "heavens and earth" will be no more - **2 Pet 3:7, 10-14; cf. Rev 20:11-12; 21:1**
- At the end of "this age", as Jesus taught in His parable of the tares - **Matt 13:36-43**
- At the coming of Jesus "in that Day", who will give "rest" to His disciples and "vengeance" to unbelievers - **2 Thess 1:7-10**
- This day has been "fixed" by God and the assurance is the resurrection of Jesus – **Acts 17:31**

The Circumstances of the Judgment Who Will Be the Judge?



- The New Testament clearly reveals that CHRIST will be the Judge
 - As claimed by Jesus Himself - **Jn 5:22,26-27**
 - As proclaimed by Paul in Athens - **Acts 17:31**
 - And as written by Paul to the church at Corinth - **2 Cor 5:10**
- In some way not fully revealed, even the "saints" (i.e., Christians) will have a part in the judgment - **1 Cor 6:2-3**

The Circumstances of the Judgment

Who Will Be Judged?



- The "angels" will be judged, as is clear from **1 Cor 6:2-3; 2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6**
- All "human beings" will be judged, as evident from passages like **Rom 2:4-6; 3:6; Rev 20:12-13**
- Even Christians will be judged - **2 Cor 5:10; Rom 14:10; cf. 1 Pet 4:17; 1 Jn 4:17**

The Circumstances of the Judgment

What Will Be Judged?



- All "deeds" done during this present life - **2 Cor 5:10**
- All "words" spoken in this life - **Matt 12:36-37**
- Even our "thoughts"! - **1 Cor 4:5**
- Indeed, there is nothing "hidden" that will not then be "known" -
cf. **1 Tim 5:24-25**

The Circumstances of the Judgment

What Will Be the Standard for Judgment?



- Jesus said, "the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" - **Jn 12:48**
 - As He will be the Judge, so it will be by His "words" that we will be judged!
 - I.e., it will be the words of the New Testament
- The "standard" is based upon the righteousness of God
 - One sin makes one guilty of all! - cf. **Jam 2:10**
 - And it declares that all are sinners! - cf. **Rom 3:23**

The Circumstances of the Judgment

Hope of Surviving the Judgment?



- Those who know God and have obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ – **2 Thess 1:7-8**
- This hope one can have is made clear in the judgment scene of **Rev 20:11-15**
- That hope pertains to having one's name "written in the book of life"
 - It is called the "Lamb's Book of Life" in **Rev 21:27**
 - Those Christians who persevere have their names in this Book of Life - **Rev 3:5**
- Only those who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb are in the "Book of Life" and only if they persevere to the end

The Judgment Seat of Christ



- The word we translate "judgment seat" (*bema*) basically means "step" from which it comes to be used as a unit of measure (Acts 7:5). It was a raised platform on which the judge sat during judicial proceedings (and from which he pronounced his verdict) or of the seat itself.
- Most of the examples of the use of the term in the New Testament refer to human tribunals, but we have one explicit reference to the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10; there are also references to Christ's activity in final judgment as 1 Cor 4:5; 1 Thess 2:19).
- We also read of God's judgment seat vice "Christ's judgment seat" (Rom 14:10).
- "We must all" appear before Christ's judgment seat, where "must" points to a compelling divine necessity: There is no escaping it.

The Judgment Seat of Christ



- People will not be able to hide anything or disguise themselves at Christ's judgment seat; they will be made known for what they really are and have done.
- There is a purpose involved; they will be there "in order that" judgment be passed on them for what they have done or failed to do.
- "Each" will receive what is due is clear that Christ's judgment is to be an individual matter.
- Paul is making it clear that we all, believers and nonbelievers alike, will one day be held responsible for what we have done in this life.
- "Whether good or bad" makes it clear that deeds of all kinds will be taken into account.

The Judgment Seat of Christ



- Paul is looking at the life of the believer as a whole. He is here referring to the heavenly reward (or otherwise) of the redeemed.
- Elsewhere he has made it clear that the works believers do can be likened to gold or silver or precious stones, or on the other hand to wood or hay or stubble.
 - o The day of judgment is like a fire that will purify the first group and consume the second (1 Cor 3:10-15).
 - o Poor works will be destroyed, but that does not mean that the builder is also destroyed.
- That we are all to stand before Christ's judgment seat is a reminder that we are accountable and that in the end we must render account of our stewardship to Christ.

The Judgment Seat of Christ



- Have you ever seen the little plaque that reads, "*Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last?*"
- Well, that's not what the poet wrote. The poet wrote this: "*Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last. And when I am dying, how happy I'll be, if the lamp of my life has been burned out for Thee.*"
- Do you think all Christians die happy? Not on your life! Some of them die as miserable as sinners. Why? Because they've misused their time and wasted their lives.
- Many of you have laid dying on a hospital bed and prayed, "Lord, if You would only spare me, I'll do this, that, or the other." Well, have you done it?

Excerpt by Leonard Ravenhill

The Book of Life



- The ledger of God is called "the Book of Life". It is a list of the righteous.
- In the golden calf incident a wrathful Yahweh and a pleading Moses illustrates the Old Testament understanding of the Book of Life.
- Moses asks that God either forgive the people or "blot me out of the book you have written" (Ex 32:32). Yahweh responds that he will blot out whoever has sinned; the punishment is immediate.
- In the Old Testament focus on divine reward and punishment in this life, the blessed on the list receive their blessings here and now and those stricken from the book suffer in this life, not in some eternal future.

The Book of Life



- The psalmist asks God to "list my tears on your scroll" (56:8) and have his enemies "blotted out of the book of life" (69:28).
- The New Testament transforms this balance book into an eternal ledger of heavenly citizenship.
- In the Gospel story of the seventy sent out into the world, Jesus assures these disciples that their names will be written in heaven (Luke 10:20).
- In the letter to the church at Sardis, heavenly citizenship, exemplified by listing in the Book of Life, is promised to those who overcome the world (Rev 3:5).
- Thus, a person enrolled in the book of life by faith remains in it by faithfulness and can be erased only by disloyalty.
- At the last judgment, anyone whose name is not written in the Book of Life is thrown into the Lake of Fire (Rev 20:15).

Rewards Defined



- REWARDS (Grk. *misthos*, meaning "hire, wage, reward," Matt 5:12,46; 6:1; 10:41; Mark 9:41; 1 Cor 3:8; etc.).
- Rewards are offered by God to a believer on the basis of faithful service rendered after salvation.
- It is clear from Scripture that God offers to the lost salvation and for the faithful service of the saved, rewards.
- Often in theological thinking salvation and rewards are confused. However, these two terms must be carefully distinguished.
- Salvation is a free gift (John 4:10; Rom 6:23; Eph 2:8-9, whereas rewards are earned by works (Matt 10:42; cf. Luke 19:17; 1 Cor 9:24-25; 2 Tim 4:7-8).
- Then, too, salvation is a present possession (Luke 7:50; John 5:24).
- On the other hand, rewards are future attainment to be dispensed at the second coming of Christ for His own (Matt 16:27; 2 Tim 4:8).

Rewards Defined



- Rewards will be dispensed at the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10; Rom 14:10).
- The doctrine of rewards is inseparably connected with God's grace.
- A soul is saved on the basis of divine grace; there is no room for the building up of merit on the part of the believer. Yet God recognizes an obligation on His part to reward His saved ones for their service to Him.
- Nothing can be done to merit salvation, but what the believer has achieved for God's glory, God recognizes with rewards at the judgment seat of Christ.
- For the central passages on rewards see 1 Cor 3:9-15 and 9:16-27; 2 Cor 5:10.
- A principal point of contention between Roman Catholics and Protestants concerns the basis of reward. Roman Catholics hold that reward is based on the actual merit of the good works of believers, whereas Protestants regard rewards as wholly of grace.

Significant Scriptures



- Matthew 10:42--And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his **reward.**"
- Matthew 25:14-15, 29--14 "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who **called his servants and entrusted to them his property.** 15 **To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.** Then he went away. 29 **For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.**
- 2 Corinthians 5:10--10 For we must 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.
- 2 John 8--8 Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full **reward.**

Location of Giving Rewards



- The rewards Christians will receive for faithful service to the Lord will be given out at the judgment seat of Christ or the bema judgment.
- The Greek word *bema* appears in 2 Cor 5:10 and Rom 14:10 and refers to the place where the works of believers will be evaluated by Christ for purposes of reward.
- In 2 Corinthians, a context in which Paul has stated several other incentives for faithful Christian service, Paul adds this additional encouragement: "For we must 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."
- In Rom 14:10, where Paul is speaking about exercising love for fellow Christians, be they weak or strong in the faith, he again uses the *bema* judgment as a motive for doing it, only here he calls it "God's judgment seat." "You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat (*bema*)."

Location of Giving Rewards



- It is clear that this is not a judgment resulting in salvation or damnation.
- Nevertheless, it is an important judgment for it will determine what responsibilities Christians will have in the coming kingdom (Matt 25:21).
- According to Paul, some will come through with very little to show for their Christian lives, saved as though "through the flames" (1 Cor 3:15).
- What he means is that some Christians will be saved but with little, if anything, to show for their years on earth.
- Whether because of wrong motives or laziness or misplaced priorities, they will conclude their lives with very little of any eternal worth to show.
- While the whole salvation process is a gift (Rom 6:23; Eph 2:8-10), rewards are the result of human effort and are earned (1 Cor 3:14).

Identification of Rewards



- The rewards to be given out for faithful service at the *bema* judgment are dealt with in various ways.
- Those spoken of in terms of "crowns" are nonmaterial, thus doing away with their being materialistic motives for divine service.
- The "crowns" that are biblically identified as being given on that day include:
 1. a crown that will last forever for those who have kept their sinful nature in check (1 Cor 9:25-27);
 2. a crown of righteousness for those who have longed for Christ's appearance (2 Tim 4:8);
 3. a crown of life for those who have endured testing successfully, even to the point of death (James 1:12; Rev 2:10);
 4. a crown of rejoicing for those who have seen souls saved (1 Thess 2:19);
 5. a crown of glory for those who have faithfully served God's people (1 Peter 5:4).
- In other places, the rewards are spoken of as "treasures in heaven" (Matt 6:20), a share in Christ's future role (Rev

Identification of Rewards



- 2:26-27), and additional responsibilities and words of praise ("Well done, good and faithful servant"; Matt 25:21,23; Luke 19:17,19).
- It is worth noting again how intangible and immaterial these rewards are.
 - Even the gift of eternal life is set forth as a prize to be gained.
 - Eternal life is something to be laid hold of by the individual (1 Tim 6:17-19).
 - While emphasizing the future rewards, it is also well to remember that there are many good results that come to the faithful believer in this life, things that can be called "rewards."
 - Jesus said that he had come that his own might have life and have it to the full (John 10:10).
 - He also said that if his own would continue to seek first his Father's kingdom and his righteousness, all the temporal things they needed would be given to them as well (Matt 6:33).

Standards for Reward



- One clearly stated standard for rewards at the *bema* judgment will be whether the works done by the Christian have been good or bad (2 Cor 5:10).
- It is significant that Paul uses the Greek word "foolish" or "worthless" and not one of the Greek words for "evil."
- His point is that there are some things that are good for the advancement of the kingdom and righteousness and others that are not, even though one would not call them evil.
- For example, some may spend a great deal of time and money on personal hobbies that have no eternal worth.
- They are not evil, unless undue amounts of time and money are spent on them; but they may not be of any eternal profit either. In that sense, they can be said to be foolish, although not sinful.

Standards for Reward



- Another point to be stressed regarding standards is that rewards will not be given necessarily for successful service as the world so often evaluates it.
- Paul notes that "it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful" (1 Cor 4:2).
- Note that he does not say "successful" as one might consider success here on earth. What is rewarded is not primarily the visible accomplishments of the individual, but the faithful labor expended (1 Cor 15:58).
- On this basis, some who have been very faithful in a more private ministry may come in alongside of and even ahead of some others who have had more public ministries, but who have not been as faithful or as purely motivated.
- It is also significant to note that the five-talented and the two-talented servants (Matt 25:21,23) were given the same reward because both were equally faithful with what had been entrusted to them.

The Variation in Reward



- Salvation and eternal life are the same for all Christians but the rewards given to each varies, dependent upon the faithful labor expended.
- It is clear from the parable of the talents in Matt 25 that the lord of the servants expected more from the five-talented man than he did from the two-talented or the one-talented individuals.
- Note that the talents were dispensed according to personal ability to handle them (v. 15).
- The ones with lesser amounts had lesser responsibility.
- Paul says that at the judgment of the believer's works, each will receive a reward according to his or her labor.
- Matt 5:12 speaks of great reward in heaven and 2 John 8 speaks of a full reward, both references indicating that the rewards will not all be the same.

The Forfeiture of Reward



- Several passages warn against the forfeiture or loss of reward.
- It is clear that this does not mean a repossession of the reward by the Lord, for the rewards being spoken of here have not yet been given.
- According to Paul, it is possible to "build" on the foundation, which is Christ, but to be building with "wood, hay or straw," which cannot stand the test of fire; the builder will be saved but "only as one escaping through the flames" (1 Cor 3:11-15).
- In other words, people can be busy with the Lord's work and still receive no reward.

The Forfeiture of Reward



- They may be taking advantage of opportunities to labor for the Lord and yet not be engaged in endeavors that meet with God's approval because they have the wrong motives.
- For example, if they seek the praise of others, they can have that praise but receive no reward from God later (Matt 6:1-18).
- Along with this forfeiture of reward will go a severe sense of shame and remorse (1 John 2:28) and a possible divine reprimand for wasted living as a Christian (Matt 25:26-28).
- It is to be underscored, however, that this loss of reward does not mean a loss of salvation.

The Motivation of Reward



- It is true that the reward motive for Christian service is not the highest biblical motive but it is a biblical one.
- As the highest, we are told to do all we do for God's glory (1 Cor 10:31; Col 3:23-24).
- We are to do all we can to be accepted by Christ, for the good of others, and out of gratitude and love for all God has done for us.
- Even the fear of the Lord that is going to fall on the unsaved is a legitimate incentive for service in seeing the lost saved (2 Cor 5:11).
- Down the line, but certainly in the line of biblical motivations for ministry, is the reward motive.
- Jesus, knowing our human nature, spoke much about the rewards to come for Christian labor for the Christian cause.
- It must also be remembered, however, that Jesus encouraged humble, unselfish service for God's kingdom and his church, even without reward.

The Motivation of Reward



- He taught that, even if we could do everything commanded of us, we are still unprofitable servants since we have just done our duty (Luke 17:7-10).
- In Matt 20:1-16, all the servants receive a denarius for a day's work in the field, even though some had worked only a small fraction of the day.
- In fact, the righteous in Matt 25:37-39 were so unimpressed by the reward motive for doing good that they could not remember when they did the good things cited by the Lord.
- Apparently the promise of reward does not spoil the conduct coming from it or Jesus would not have used it; nor does it contradict the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith alone.
- We cannot demand recompense from the Lord, but he can sovereignly give rewards if he so wills.

The Motivation of Reward



- Finally, two things should be pointed out.
- First, according to Rom 8:8 and Heb 11:6, it is impossible for unbelievers to do anything that fundamentally meets with God's approval or that will receive a reward from God, no matter how impressive their deeds may be.
- However, once one is a believer, even as small a service as a cup of cold water given in the Lord's name (Mark 9:41) will not go without divine notice and reward.
- Second, even the rewards earned are totally a result of God's grace since all successful labor for Christ is accomplished by Christ working in and through us.
- In Rom 15:18, Paul says he will not dare to speak of any accomplishment except those Christ has done through him.



Poem: His Plan for Me

When I stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ
And He shows His plan for me,
The plan of my life as it might have been
Had He had His way - and I see
How I blocked Him here, and checked Him there,
And I would not yield my will,
Will there be grief in my Savior's eyes,
Grief though He loves me still?
Would He have me rich and I stand there poor,
Stripped of all but His grace,
While memory runs like a hunted thing,
Down the paths I cannot retrace.
Lord, of the years that are left to me
I give them to Thy hand
Take me and break me and mold me,
To the pattern that Thou hast planned!
-Author Unknown

Summary on the Judgment



- The purpose of the judgment will be for publication and execution of the sentence so that each one may receive their reward or punishment, to glorify God, and to vindicate His righteousness.
- The Bible speaks of one judgment to follow the 2nd coming at the end of time on a day that has been fixed by God.
- God has made Jesus Christ the judge. We will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
- Angels and human beings will be judged.
- We will give an account for our thoughts, words, and deeds.
- Jesus' spoken words will judge all on the last day.
- The standard of the judgment will be the righteousness of God.
- At the judgment, the book of life will be opened. All whose names are written therein will receive eternal life. All whose names are not found therein will be thrown into the lake of fire.

Questions for Discussion



1. What does the Bible say about the purpose of the Judgment?
2. What does the Bible teach about the circumstances of the Judgment?
3. What does the Bible teach about how to survive the Judgment?
4. Discuss the nature of the book of life.
5. What does the Bible teach about where rewards will be handed out?
6. What does the Bible teach on the standards of reward?
7. What does the Bible teach about the motivation for reward?

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