

## REWARDED BY THE LORD

September 25, 2022 – Steve Hogan

[Hope Bible Church of Tampa](http://HopeBibleChurchofTampa.org)

[ChristKingdom.org](http://ChristKingdom.org)

Today, I want to talk about heavenly rewards, about how God wants to reward you in the future for the work you do on earth. It's a relatively untaught subject in churches, but one that you'll find is extensively taught in the New Testament. And it's a very important subject, one that'll have a powerful and profound impact on how you live for the Lord on this earth, and how God wants to reward you in heaven.

I want to start off by talking about three principal aspects of our hope.

- First, the most basic aspect of our hope is that we're going to heaven after we die, and most Christians know this, but sad to say, for many Christians, that's all they know.
- Second, there are other aspects of our hope that relate to every Christian - that you are going to be with Jesus, that you'll have a heavenly home, that you'll be given a brand-new, glorified body, that you'll be with other believers in heaven, and that you'll be given a wonderful inheritance.
- Third, there are specific rewards that relate to how you personally serve the Lord. And my purpose this week and next is to teach on this important subject of rewards, for I'm convinced it will have a life-changing effect on your lives, now and forever.

Last week, I talked about two specific ways God blesses us. 1st, we're blessed by God because we are saved by grace, by our faith in the work of Christ. 2<sup>nd</sup>, we're blessed by God because we're rewarded by grace, by our work of faith for Christ. Eph. 2:8-10

- When we trust in Christ's work for us, when we are saved, we are blessed by God. And we're blessed by God because we work for Christ, and this blessing is primarily seen when we're rewarded by Christ at the end of this age, on the day of Christ.

I want to now share a number of verses on rewards that will help you understand what they are, their importance, why you get them, and when you get them.

- Colossians 3:23-24. *"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord, rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you'll receive the reward of the inheritance."* Now what do we learn? 1<sup>st</sup>, you can be rewarded for whatever you do, whether that's cleaning the house, mowing the lawn, serving someone, praying, etc. And that you can be rewarded for whatever you do gives meaning and value to your entire life, to every day of your life, and to everything you do for God. This truth is so encouraging and should greatly affect how you live each day of your life.

2<sup>nd</sup>, rewards relate to working for God. We know what it means to work for people, and being paid by people, but now we're talking about working for God Himself, for the Lord of lords, for our heavenly employer. And He wants to reward you for everything you do, say, or think, everything that is for His purposes and glory. Psalm 19:14, 11

3<sup>rd</sup>, rewards relate to working. And you're to work heartily for God, with passion, energy, and zeal. People work hard for all kinds of things in life, for money, position, power, and prestige, but we are to work hard for God, for His sake and for His glory.  
- 4<sup>th</sup>, you'll be rewarded in the future, not in this life, but after this life is over, and specifically, at the end of this age, when Christ comes back, on the day of Christ.

Revelation 22:12 - *"Behold, I am coming soon, and I will reward everyone according to what he has done."* This confirms what I just said, that God rewards us when Christ comes back, on the day of Christ, which is the day of the rapture. Since we live in the end-times, we know Christ is coming soon, and that it won't be long before we're rewarded. Now Christ rewards everyone who has worked for Him, who has served Him.  
- Again, you're rewarded according to what you've done, how you've used your time and abilities for God, how you've lived your life for Him while you are on this earth.

1 Corinthians 3:8 - *"He who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor."* Each person on earth is unique, has their own work, their own labor to do for God. And so don't compare yourself with someone else. Just look to God, and work for Him. And yet, we Christians are one, we are on the same team, we are in the same church. Eph. 2:19-22  
- You also learn that you will get your own reward according to your own labor. Your reward is unique, special, and personal, it is what God is giving just to you.

2 Corinthians 5:10. *"We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."* What do we learn? 1<sup>st</sup>, the word recompense has the idea of being paid, of God paying you for your work for Him on earth. And God isn't cheap, He's very generous, He'll pay you extremely well for all the work you do for Him. Psalm 31:19

2<sup>nd</sup>, again we see that you're recompensed, you're rewarded, for what you do, and for everything you do. And so these truths about rewards relate to every day of your life. There are 365 days a year, and you have 7 days in your work week for God, and He will reward you for every single thing you do or say for Him on every single day of your life.

3<sup>rd</sup>, as a Christian, you will appear before the judgment seat of Christ, and again, this is on the day of Christ, that day at the end of this age when Christ comes back. You'll appear before Christ to be judged by Him. Jesus Christ knows every single day and every single detail of your life, and the good things you've done for Him will be eternally rewarded, forever blessed, and the bad things will be recognized for what they are, as worthless, as those things which won't be rewarded.  
- Matthew 16:27. *"The Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with His angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds."*

1 Corinthians 3:13-15. *“Each man’s work will become evident, for the day will show it because it to be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work. If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, as yet through fire.”*

These vss. tell us a number of things about rewards:

- 1<sup>st</sup>, the works you do as a Christian on this earth, whether they’re good or bad, will become evident, but they are not evident now. That is, people don’t know all that you do for God, but they will know more in the future, in heaven. And if you don’t live a godly life for Christ, then that will be evident too.

2<sup>nd</sup>, again we see that it is on the day of Christ that your works will become evident, will be seen for what they really are.

- 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Christian whose work is not burned up, receives rewards from God.

- 4<sup>th</sup>, there’ll be Christians who won’t be getting many, if any rewards. This is sad, that the works of many Christians will be worthless, and these Christians will be saved, will be in heaven, but they’ll lose out on the rewards God wanted to give them. 2 John 2:8

1 Corinthians 4:5 - *“Do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.”*

What do these verses say? 1<sup>st</sup>, we’re just humans, and we don’t know what’s in the heart of another person, and so we’re not to make judgments about the work, the value, of our lives or others.

2<sup>nd</sup>, we learn that God isn’t just judging deeds or actions, but motives, the reasons people do things. From our perspective, what a person does may look like a good thing, but only God really understands the motives of a person, the reasons he may do or say something.

- 3<sup>rd</sup>, the word “time” is referring to the day of Christ, when Christ comes back.

- 4<sup>th</sup>, one aspect of being rewarded is that God will praise, will commend you for your work. In Matt. 25, Jesus commends the slave by saying, *“Well done, good and faithful slave.”*

Matthew 5:11 – *“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of things against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great.”* What do we learn from this verse?

- 1<sup>st</sup>, you learn that rewards are blessings from God, are specific ways God will bless us, and the way that is talked about here relates to being persecuted.

- 2<sup>nd</sup>, there are rewards and there are great rewards, and being persecuted for your faith results in great rewards.

- 3<sup>rd</sup>, rejoice when you are persecuted, not because persecution feels good, but because you know it’ll be worth it, that you’ll be greatly blessed, greatly rewarded, in the future.

Matthew 6:1 – *“Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.”*

- As people it is easy to do things to be seen and honored by others. But if you do that, it's pride, it's for your glory, and you won't be rewarded for that. Three examples of rewards are given in Matt. 6. Matt. 6:4, 6:6, 6:18 - these talk about giving, praying, and fasting. Now your goal as a Christian isn't to be seen by people when you do something for God, but to know that God sees all you do and hears all that you say, and that He will reward you accordingly.

Matthew 6:19-20 – *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy – but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”*

- The word treasure speaks of that which is precious and valuable. And God doesn't want you to focus on worldly treasures, on money, jewelry, cars, houses, or other things of value. But rather, you're to focus on and work on getting eternal treasures in heaven. Earthly treasures can be stolen, destroyed or ruined. Earthly treasures can be idols in your heart, but heavenly and eternal treasures result from worshiping the one true God and working for Him, and they're secure in heaven and will last forever. Luke 12, 1 Peter 1

God commands us to store up treasures. He commands us to do that which results in being rewarded in heaven. And this idea of storing up means that your heavenly treasures are continuing to grow, continuing to increase as you live for God on earth. If you're a Christian, and are serving and working for God through the years, then your heavenly treasures are growing. You may think about billionaires, and how rich they are, and how much money they have, but don't do that. For a child of God who's serving God on earth will be infinitely and eternally richer than some little billionaire on earth. Eph. 2:7

Luke 6:35 – *“Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High.”* You will be rewarded when you love your enemies, and specifically, by being good, by being kind to them, by lending, by giving something to them and not expecting it back. And when you give to your enemies, God will give to you, and it's these heavenly rewards, rewards that are worth infinitely more than what you gave to your enemies on earth.

As you can see there's lots said about rewards, and we'll talk more about them next week. I want to close with one final vs. Rev. 11:18 - *“The time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward your bondservants the prophets and the saints and those who fear the Lord, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”*