

The Great Reward

Introduction

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They that deny themselves for Christ shall enjoy themselves in Christ.

1. In the last few verses of the Beatitudes, Jesus said this:

Matthew 5:10-12 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for **great is your reward in heaven**, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2. Jesus said “great is your reward in heaven.” We should all be very encouraged by what Jesus said.

A. Therefore, let’s look more at this “great reward” that we all are longing for when our earthly life is over.

It Is Certain

1. Christ promised us this “great reward.”

John 14:1-3

2. Jesus also says these words in Mark 9:41 concerning those who will not lose their reward.

Mark 9:41 For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

- A. **“And whosoever gives you a cup of cold water” is taken from Zechariah 13:7. The reference is to one’s lowliness in spirit, the smallest service, their littleness in the eyes of an undiscerning world, while high in Heaven’s esteem.**
- B. **“He will by no means lose his reward.” This is the descending climax – “a prophet, ” “a righteous man,” “a little one”;**
- 1) **Signifying that however low we come down in our services to those that are Christ’s, all that is done for His sake, and that bears the stamp of love to His blessed name, shall be divinely appreciated and owned and rewarded.**
3. **The Apostles spoke of its certainty.**
2 Timothy 4:8
Revelation 2:10

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, **we have a building from God**, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, **according to His promise, look for new heavens** and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

1 John 2:25 And this is the promise that **He has promised us—eternal life.**

It Is Future

1. Our earthly circumstances are no indication of the eternal. There really is “no heaven on earth.”
 - A. Consider the Psalmist’s dilemma:
Psalms 73:12-17
 - B. God is more concerned with our eternal welfare than our earthly comfort.
 - C. Sin has certain consequences in this life and we have certain blessings in this life, but God’s accounts are not settled here!
2. Seeking an earthly reward certainly risks the eternal reward.
 - A. As the hypocrites that Jesus spoke of:
Matthew 6:1-6
 - B. Moses passed on the earthly reward that he could have had, so that he could gain the much more valuable heavenly reward.

Hebrews 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

- C. The rich young ruler passed up the heavenly reward for the earthly reward.
Matthew 19:16-22
- D. God’s reward is certain, but it is in the future.
 - 1) We must invest, not in the moment, but in our future!

It Is In Heaven

1. **Contrary to the premillennialist's view.**
 - A. **They claim that most people who are saved will be in an earthly paradise.**
2. **Jesus says "great is your reward in heaven."**
 - A. **Peter writes of an inheritance "reserved in heaven for you."**

1 Peter 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

Colossians 1:3-5 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

It Is Great

1. **Again, Jesus said "great is your reward."**
 - A. **It is great because it is not earthly, but rather eternal in nature.**
Matthew 25:46

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- B. **We will be in the very presence of almighty God!**
Revelation 21:1-7

It Is Conditional

1. In order for any of us to enjoy the blessing of an eternal reward, we **MUST** serve God faithfully – according to His spoken word.
 - A. Listen carefully to what God has said, understanding that it is our obligation and responsibility to **DO** what God has instructed of us.

Matthew 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but **he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**

Hebrews 5:8-9 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, **He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,**

Hebrews 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that **after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:**

Mark 13:13 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But **he who endures to the end shall be saved.**

Conclusion

1. The Great Reward – is available and waiting for anyone who:
 - A. Desires it!
 - B. Understands and **does** what God has instructed of them.
 - C. As a result, are determined to Live righteously on earth!

Revelation 2:10 **Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**

