

More About Rewards

Last week we looked at the issue of rewards and saw that every true saint gets the SAME reward of eternal life. That is because ALL the 'good works' that 'we do' are actually 'GOD works' in us. They are nothing 'of ourselves'. God will not 'reward' us with anything (other than everlasting life) that HE does through us. We will not be getting different rewards for various degrees of labor because we 'earn' no 'personal merit'. To God be all the glory!

Jer 9:23-24 Thus saith the LORD,

Let not the **wise** man glory in his wisdom,
neither let the **mighty** man glory in his might,
let not the **rich** man glory in his riches:

24 But **let him that glorieth glory in this,**
that he understandeth and knoweth me,
that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment,
and righteousness, in the earth:
for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

Paul, saying "none other things" (Acts 26:22), taught like Jeremiah:

1 Cor 1:26-31 For ye see your calling, brethren,

how that not many **wise** men after the flesh,
not many **mighty**,
not many **noble**, are called:

27 But **God hath chosen**
the foolish things of the world to confound the wise;
and **God hath chosen**
the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;
28 And base things of the world,
and things which are despised, **hath God chosen**,
yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:
29 That **no flesh should glory in his presence.**
30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom,
and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:
31 That, **according as it is written,**
He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

God did the 'choosing' and He will do the 'commending'. Again Paul wrote:

2 Cor 10:17-18 But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

18 For not he that commendeth himself is approved,
but whom the Lord commendeth.

Even though Paul was an apostle he realized his own 'nothing-ness':

2 Cor 12:11-12 I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me:
for I ought to have been commended of you:

for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.

12 Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience,
in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

Even the ministers are 'nothing' because the work is all of God:

1 Cor 3:5-7 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos,
but ministers by whom ye believed,
even as the Lord gave to every man?

6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing,
neither he that watereth;

but God that giveth the increase.

Paul and Apollos are one and will get one and the same reward.

God gave the seed God gave the water God makes it grow!

But each person will be judged (Rom 2:5-11) according to
what they have personally done whether good or evil (not large or small
amount of work) to be either saved or lost with no respect of persons:

1 Cor 3:8-9 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one:
and every man shall receive his own reward
according to his own labour.

9 For we are labourers together with God:
ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

Would we dare to think that we are helping God out? No! God is helping us!

Jesus taught His disciples the same principle and the same reward:

John 4:35-38 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages,
and gathereth fruit unto life eternal:
that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

37 And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.

38 I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour:
 other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.

It is by God's grace that we work and build on Christ, the Solid Rock

(1 Cor 10:4-5) Who was also with Israel in the wilderness:

1 Cor 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, **I have laid** (Greek word <tithemi> also translated, **I "am ordained"** a preacher - 1 Tim 2:7, and I **"am appointed"** a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles - 2 Tim 1:11) the foundation (Acts 13:47), and another buildeth thereon.

But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

Contrary to the way 'mid-Acts-ers' present it Paul did not lay 'his own, new, different foundation' than what all the rest of the prophets preached.

Paul testified that there can be NO OTHER, but only ONE, foundation:

1 Cor 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The building is of the LORD not of us.

Without Him doing the work in us and through us 'our' work is useless:

Psa 127:1 Except the LORD build the house,
they labour in vain that build it:

except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

In Rom 1:21-28, and 2:1-11, some of which we read last week,

there are sins listed in 2 different 'categories'

indicating just 2 'ends' of man at the judgment of God:

- those who 'do well' and 'work good' will inherit eternal life;
- those who 'do unrighteousness' and 'evil' get wrath.

Here again are the 2 classifications, which every man (Heb 9:27) will face:

1 Cor 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation (Jesus Christ)
gold, silver, precious stones,
wood, hay, stubble;

Whichever quality, manner, kind, type, or sort of work done

will be seen on Judgment Day:

1 Cor 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest:
for the day shall declare it,
because it shall be revealed by fire;
and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

We are not saved 'according to our works' (2 Tim 1:9, Titus 3:5, Eph 2:8-9),

but 'every man will be judged according to their works' (Rev 20:12-13):

1 Cor 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon,
 he shall receive a reward.

A principle in sound doctrine is that God will not contradict Himself.

Many have used this next verse to teach different rewards for a believer, but

it doesn't because of the many other scriptures that teach otherwise. It is

selfishness to want God to 'reward' US for the work HE does through us:

1 Cor 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss:
 but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

That phrase "he shall suffer loss" is the same Greek word <zemioo> that is translated "lose" about a man's own soul being 'cast away' (Luke 9:25):

Matt 16:26-27 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and **lose his own soul**? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and **then he shall reward every man according to his works.**

Let us compare where God made another comparison between gold/silver/honour and wood/earth/dishonour. Those who claim to be in the 'great house' of God are to purge themselves of wood, hay, and stubble:

2 Tim 2:19-21 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, **The Lord knoweth them that are his.**

And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

20 But in a great house

there are not only vessels of **gold** and of **silver,**

but also of **wood** and of **earth;**

and some to **honour,** (those of gold and silver)

and some to **dishonour.** (those of wood and earth)

21 If a man therefore **purge himself from these,**

he shall be a vessel unto **honour,** sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

Just as the whole nation Israel in the old testament, who were God's chosen covenant people, was comprised of believers and unbelievers so also is the 'visible' church today in the new testament, made up of both:

Rom 9:21-23 Hath not the potter power over **the clay,** (Jer 18: 1-6) of **the same lump** (a great house, the household of God)

to make one vessel unto **honour,**

and another unto **dishonour?**

22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering

the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:

23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on

the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,

Stubble (Isa 40:24, 5:24) is like chaff (Psa 1:4, 83:12-15) that is ungodly:

Job 21:18 They are as stubble before the wind, (Mal 4:1)
and as chaff that the storm carrieth away.

Chaff has no root (Luke 8:13), will be separated out and burned in the fire:

Matt 3:10-12 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees:
therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down,
and cast into the fire. (also see Matt 7:17-19)

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh
after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall
baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor,
and gather his wheat into the garner;
but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

While teaching again of good and corrupt trees (Matt 7:17-20), Jesus said:

Matt 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter
into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father
which is in heaven.

The righteous servants will then be discerned (Mal 3:18) from the wicked:

Matt 13:47-50 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net,
that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down,
and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth,
and sever the wicked from among the just,

50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire:
there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Jesus said if we do not forsake all that we have, we cannot be His disciple:

Luke 14:28-30 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not
down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, (as in 1 Cor 3:12-15)
and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. (vs.31-33)

The confirmation of true salvation is good works and perseverance:

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews **which believed on him,**
If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

Jesus taught a parable (Luke 19:11) wherein pounds were given to a king's servants. Those that worked faithfully were both judged 'good' and rewarded; the 1 that did nothing was judged 'wicked' and lost what he had:

Luke 19:12-24 He said therefore, **A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.**

- 13 And he called his **ten servants,** and delivered them **ten** pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.
- 14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, **We will not have this man to reign over us.**
- 15 And it came to pass, that **when he was returned,**
having received the kingdom,
then he commanded these servants to be called unto him,
to whom he had given the money,
that he might know **how much every man had gained by trading.**
- 16 Then came the first, saying,
Lord, **thy pound hath gained ten pounds.**
- 17 And he said unto him, **Well, thou good servant:** because **thou hast been faithful** in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.
- 18 And the second came, saying,
Lord, **thy pound hath gained five pounds.**
- 19 And **he said likewise to him,** Be thou also over five cities.
- 20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, **here is thy pound,**
which I have **kept laid up** in a napkin:
- 21 For I feared thee, because thou art an austere (**strict**) man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.
- 22 And he saith unto him, **Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee,**
thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man,
taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:
- 23 Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank,
that at my coming I might have **required mine own with usury?**
- 24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound,
and give it to him that hath ten pounds.

The 'faithful' -- however much or little they had -- were rewarded with the same JOY. The 'unfaithful' -- lost what he had and was judged as 'wicked':

Matt 25:14-30 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

15 And unto one he gave five talents,
to another two,
and to another one;
to every man according to his several ability; (Eph 4:7; 1 Cor 1:7, 12:11)
and straightway took his journey. (John 14:2-3)

16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth,
and hid his lord's money.

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh,
and reckoneth with them.

20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents:

behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

22 He also that had received two talents came and said,

Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents:

behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said,

Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth:

lo, there thou hast that is thine.

26 His lord answered and said unto him,

Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

(Matt 25:) 28 Take therefore the talent from him,
and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

29 **For unto every one that hath shall be given,
and he shall have abundance:**

but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

30 And **cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness:
there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

The wheat and the tares will grow together until the harvest when God separates them (Matt 13:24-30). We can be assured that we HAVE both the Father and the Son when we abide in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 1:9):

2 John 1:7-9 For many deceivers are entered into the world,
who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.
This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

8 **Look to yourselves,
that we lose not those things which we have wrought,
but that we receive a full reward.**

Even though God gives men different talents and different amounts of abilities each man is to use whatever gifts he has to God's glory building gold, silver, and precious stones which are rewarded with eternal life (1 Cor 3:12-15) because the wood, hay, and stubble is like the chaff that will end up burnt in the fire.

Long ago, God told Abraham that HE was His reward:

Gen 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram:
I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

Having GOD is enough!

This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"