

Rewards

God always tells us what He wants. In today's dispensation, the one that the Lord gave to Paul, we know that God wants all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth, which is His word, the Bible.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is **good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.**

We must always make sure everyone understands that salvation does not depend on anything we do. We are saved only when we believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ as payment for our sins

But, God will reward those believers who understand, and do, what He wants them to do. We will start with the passage in 1 Corinthians which confirms that we in the Church, the Body

of Christ, will receive rewards in Heaven based on our works here on earth.

1 Corinthians 3:6-15

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and **every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.** For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I **have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon.** But **let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.** For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;** 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. **If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.** **If any man's work shall be burned, he shall**

suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Paul explained to the Romans that believers will all stand before Christ. The next statement can scare people, “every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” It further clarifies the previous passage. Not to worry, our “account” is the manifestation of our life, in full, in front of our Savior—the good, the bad, and the ugly. It will all be subjected to fire.

Romans 14:10-12

But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for **we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.** For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, **every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.** So then **every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**

He also seems to indicate that is when the event happens when every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess belief in Christ, to God.

The rewards, at least in part, are crowns. The first one we will discuss is the Crown of Rejoicing.

Crown of Rejoicing.

Paul commands us to rejoice because it is God's will for us in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

We will be rewarded if we do so.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy.

Paul reminds us of the most important reason that we have to rejoice! We will be in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ when He comes for His church at the Adoption.

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;** Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Paul refers to the Judgement Seat of Christ in this next verse. We will each stand on our own work, whether or not we obeyed God's will for us to rejoice.

Galatians 6:4-5

But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden

Paul told the Corinthians that they should rejoice because of his ministry, and he rejoiced because of them. He then reminds them of "the day of

the Lord Jesus,” where they will receive the Crown of Rejoicing at the Judgement Seat of Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:14

As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also are ours in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Paul tells the Philippians the same thing. Paul will rejoice in the day of Christ and wants the Philippians to rejoice with him.

Philippians 2:16

Holding forth the word of life; **that I may rejoice in the day of Christ**, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, **I joy, and rejoice with you all. For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.**

Incorruptible Crown:

The Incurable Crown is works-based. It is not salvation that is “earned,” it is earned by demonstrating an understanding of the task God

has given you. Each of us has been given gifts and talents to use in God's service. To do this, we must not allow ourselves to be diverted by temptations and easy living. Paul compares us to athletes that must work to keep their bodies in good physical condition, and train to master their athletic skills.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Know ye not that they which run in a race **run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.** And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. **Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.** I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: **But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection:** lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Our gifts and talents are to be used to edify the other member of the Church, the Body of Christ. We know that Paul is not talking about keeping our bodies in good shape as a priority of our ministry. He tells us that physical exercise is not

important to our ministry, it is our exercise of godliness that is profitable to our ministry.

1 Timothy 4:7-8

But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and **exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things**, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

There are many passages where Paul explains that we each have our ministry based on the gifts and talents that we have been given, to edify, and support the other members of the Church. To perfect—complete—the saints.

Ephesians 4:11-13

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Paul explains that there are different gifts, different administrations, and different operations that God uses to complete the task of building the Church, the Body of Christ, but the same God works it all together. The Holy Ghost, dwelling in each believer's heart, manifests, or shows Himself differently in each person.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

Then there is a list, very much like the previous one in Ephesians 4, of the gifts that the Spirit gives to members of the Church, to use for the edification of the Church.

1 Corinthians 12:8-11

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same

Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

God wants us to behave as if we are one body, which is exactly what the Church is!! Together, we are literally Christ's body on this earth.

Ephesians 5:30

For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

He wants us to care for one another, to suffer with those who are suffering, and to rejoice with those that are rejoicing. Then, one more time, He lists the gifts that we will find in the members of the Church. You may find that you have been given more than one!

1 Corinthians 12:18, 25-28-

But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if

they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body.

²⁵That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. **And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.**

A reward system based on works is not something that we are used to hearing about in dispensational Bible teaching. We are saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, and that alone. But those members of the Church that faithfully use their God-given gifts for the edification of the other member of the Church will be rewarded by the Lord Jesus Christ.

We know that Paul was talking about the Judgement Seat of Christ, rewards and not judgement, because Paul says this is judging the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to Paul's gospel.

Romans 2:6, 16

⁶Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

¹⁶In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Paul also tells the Corinthians that we will reap what we sow. This is often thought of as giving money, but in light of the fact we have been given gifts and talents to use to help other members of the Church, you can be sure this passage is talking about using your gifts for others. We will reap rewards for using our gifts, every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

But this I say, **He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.** Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let

him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; **that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:**

When members of the Church use their gifts, fruits of righteousness are increased and cause others to give thanks to God because of us.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

We have been planned for, and our tasks, and the tools to carry them out, have been given to us by God.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Lest we think that our God-given gifts are not important, God will continue the good works you perform until the day we meet Christ. You may already be with Christ on that day, but your good works will continue by others who are still alive on earth.

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:**

Paul tells Titus that believers should make sure they continue to use their God-given gifts for good works. Paul assures us that what we do is good and profitable to others.

Titus 3:8

This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that **they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.**

2 Thessalonians 3:13

But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

Crown of Righteousness:

When Paul talks about the Crown of Righteousness, he talks about finishing the ministry, or the course, that is laid out for him as a minister of Jesus Christ. It has the sound of a boxing match or a cross-country race. He doesn't mention coming in first, just finishing.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

He says much the same thing in the book of Acts. His course is the ministry he was given. When he wrote the following passage, unlike the previous verse, he had yet to finish it.

Acts 20:24

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I

have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

In Philippians, Paul says he is looking for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. The prize is the Crown of Righteousness.

Philippians 3:13-14

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

The Crown of Righteousness is for those of us who don't quit their ministries until Christ comes for His Church. Until then, we, like Paul should continue to press on toward that day. Those of us who do, will receive the Crown of Righteousness.

Galatians 6:9

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

We have a lot of fantastic promises to be a part of when Jesus comes to meet us in the clouds.

1 Corinthians 4:3-5

But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. **Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.**

If we are stedfast and get through the tough times without quitting, we will receive the prize, the consolation.

2 Corinthians 1:7

And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that **as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.**

Among the many wonderful things that we can look forward to, one amazing thing is that Believers will reign with Jesus Christ!

2 Timothy 2:11-13

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

We must keep in mind, and look for, the things that will come. We cannot see them yet, but they will be our eternal glory.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, **worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:** for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Paul tells us that God has prepared things for us, so wonderful, that we have not seen them, nor heard of them, nor can we even imagine them on

our own. We must rely on the Spirit, residing in our hearts, to reveal them to us.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

We will see the Lord face-to-face! We will know all about our God! We will know God as well as He knows us!

1 Corinthians 13:12-13

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

All believers in the Lord Jesus Christ can look forward to Him coming to take them to Heaven to spend eternity in His presence. Believers, who completed their ministries during their time on

earth, love the Lord's appearance. They can look forward to being rewarded for completing their courses. They will receive the Crown of Righteousness.

Crown of Glory:

There are 5 crowns mentioned in the Bible. The apostle Paul mentions 3 of them, and Peter, James, and John (in the book of Revelation) discuss the other 2.]

The first “Kingdom” crown, mentioned by Peter, is the Crown of Glory. It is for the people who are the shepherds, feeding the flock of God, until the chief Shepherd appears. There is no one alive today who will be eligible to receive this crown. None of us are shepherds and none of us are sheep.

1 Peter 5:1-4

The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by

constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

A really good illustration of the people who will receive this crown was when Jesus Christ gave Peter a chance to profess his love for Him 3 times, to answer for the 3 times that Peter denied Jesus Christ before Christ's trial and crucifixion. After each time Peter told Jesus that he loved Him, Jesus told him to feed His sheep.

Peter and all of the faithful apostles and teachers of the Old Testament/Gospels/Acts periods, will receive the Crown of Glory. This will be for people who are part of the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth.

John 21:15-17

So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? **He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.** **He saith unto him,**

Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? **He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.** **He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.** He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? **And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee.** **Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.**

Crown of Life:

The Crown of Life is also for the people in the Old Testament/Gospels/Acts periods. It is for those who endured suffering and trials for their faith.

Matthew 10:22

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

It will be especially prevalent for the faithful who endure the Tribulation. James and John wrote to people of the future about their suffering.

James 1:12

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Revelation 2:10

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and **ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**

Jesus promised to come quickly to protect the tested and suffering during the Tribulation so they can hold fast to their crown of Life.

Revelation 3:10-12

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will

write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.