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Earthly Work That Results in Heavenly Rewards



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #220 ~

We all understand the importance of work, for this is how we survive, how we make a living, how we buy food and clothes, pay bills, and provide for our family. But first and foremost, you are to work for God. He is your Master – *"it is the Lord Christ whom you serve",* and He will reward you for *"from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance"* (Col. 3:24). Knowing we are to work for God while we live on earth, and that we will be eternally rewarded in heaven is most encouraging.

Do you think about how God wants to richly reward you for your work for Him? Do you realize that your heavenly reward from God for working at a job is infinitely more than your earthly pay for working at that job (Eph. 6:5-8)? Do you understand that being rewarded relates not to whether your earthly employer sees you working, but knowing that your

heavenly Father sees you working all the time (Matt. 6:3-4)? Do you realize that being rewarded has nothing to do with whether you are young or old, single or married, slave or free, rich or poor, black or white, sick or healthy, employed or unemployed, or retired (Luke 2:36-38)? Do you know that being rewarding is not so much about what abilities you have, but how you faithfully use your abilities (Matt. 25:21)? Do you see that working for God is not a part time thing or 40 hours / week, but a 24/7 week and years of godly living? Think about how God wants to greatly reward you for a lifetime of service to Him. *"In keeping them, there is great reward."* Psalm 19:11

What specifically can you do to be rewarded by your Father? *"Whoever gives a cup of water to drink because of Christ... he will not lose his* ***reward****"* (Mark 9:41). *"Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your* ***reward*** *will be great"* (Luke 6:35). *"Sell your possessions and give to charity"* and then you will receive *"an unfailing* ***treasure*** *in heaven"* (Luke 12:32). *"Give to the poor"*, *"pray"*, *"fast"*, for then *"your Father who sees what is done in secret will* ***reward*** *you"* (Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18). Seek God for *"He is a* ***rewarder*** *of those who seek Him"* (Heb. 11:6). If people *"insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me... your* ***reward*** *in heaven is great"* (Matt. 5:11-12). By doing these things for the Lord, you will be wonderfully and everlastingly blessed.

The above verses clearly state how you can be personally rewarded for working for God. But keeping other commands also results in you being rewarded. Here are some of them: *"let your light shine before men"* (Matt. 5:16); *"go make disciples"* (Matt. 28:19); *"love one another"* (John 15:17); *"weep with those who weep"* (Rom. 12:15); *"overcome evil with good"* (Rom. 12:21); *"look out... for the interests of others"* (Phil. 2:4); *"put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness..."* (Col. 3:12); *"devote yourselves to prayer"* (Col. 4:2); *"encourage one another"* (Heb. 3:13); *"be holy yourselves in all your behavior"* (1 Pet. 1:15); *"as each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another"* (1 Pet. 4:10). Yes, it takes time and effort to do these things; yes, you need to sacrifice your life, and sometimes

suffer; but it's for the glory of God, the good of others, and for your eternal benefit. There is no doubt that God will make your earthly work extremely and eternally worthwhile, that your work for Him in this world will result in untold and unbelievable treasures in heaven.

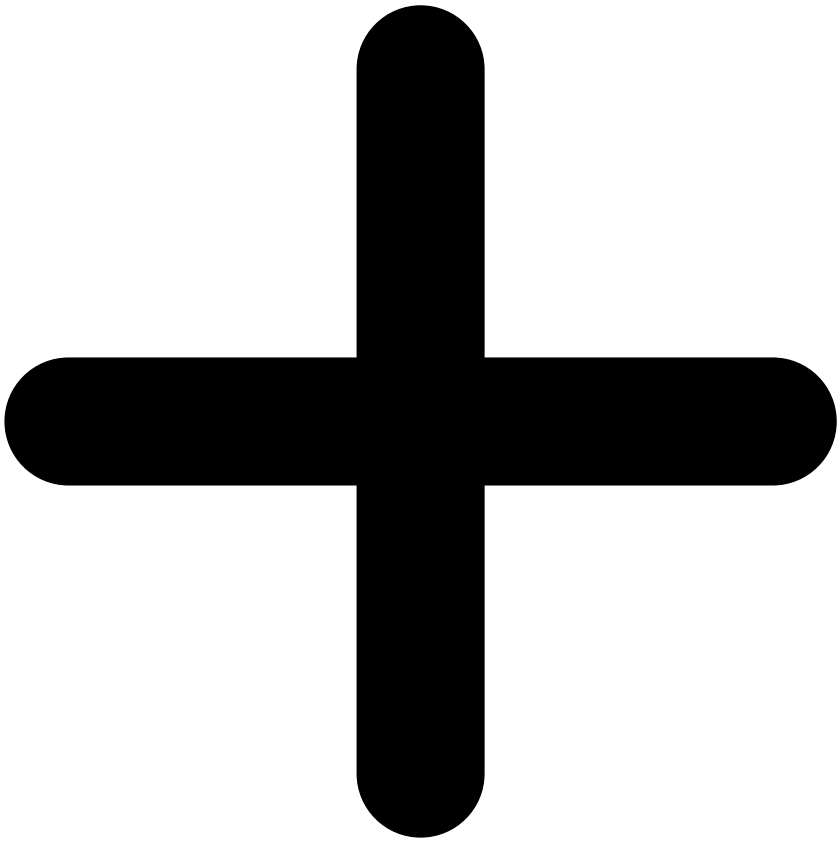
In the Bible, there are many examples of godly people loving and serving the Lord. There's Enoch walking with God, Noah building an ark, Abraham being obedient, Moses enduring ill treatment (*"he was looking to the reward"* – Heb. 11:26). There's Rahab welcoming the spies, David conquering kingdoms, and others being stoned, sawn in two, and put to death with the sword. There's Deborah being a leader, Jael killing Sisera, Ruth being loyal, Esther being courageous, and Mary being humble. There's Peter preaching, Peter's mother-in-law serving, Mary Magdalene loving Jesus, John writing the revelation, Anna praying, Stephen being fearless, Dorcas making all those clothes, and Paul being an apostle to the Gentiles *("there's laid up for me the crown of righteousness"* – 2 Tim. 4:8). There's Prisca and Aquila risking their lives, Mary and Persis working hard, and Epaphroditus being a minister to Paul. All these saints will all be greatly rewarded for their love and service to God. Might the lives of these who served God in the past motivate you to serve Him in the present. *"… fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."* Rom. 12:11

What do you need to do to receive eternal rewards from your heavenly Father? ***"Whatever you do****, do your work heartily… knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance"* (Col. 3:23-24). Wow! It's whatever you do! This means that every single thing you think, say, or do has potential to be rewarded by God. ***"Whatever good thing*** *each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord* (Eph. 6:8). *"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"*** (2 Cor. 5:10). These truths about rewards shows God's incredible love for you, that He really wants to bless you forever for all you do for Him during your short time on earth? *"In Your presence is fulness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever."* Psalm 16:11

“Whatever you do” – think about this for your own life. It can mean singing to the Lord, saying a quick prayer for a friend, joyfully doing the dishes, cheerfully mowing the lawn, faithfully doing the laundry, dutifully caring for your children, having lunch with a believer, diligently working at your job, wisely using your money, trusting God when you are sick, giving to a person in need, being kind to a stranger, compassionately caring for your elderly parents, encouraging someone who is discouraged, patiently driving in heavy traffic, lovingly texting a friend, thanking God for the weather, rejoicing when faced with a trial, attending a mid-week Bible study, etc., etc., etc.

What’s important is not just doing *“Christian”* things, but doing them for God with a right heart and right motives. *“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”* (1 Cor. 4:5). What do these motives relate to? Paul speaks of *“your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you”* (1 Thess. 1:3-4). It’s having faith in God, relying completely on Him. It’s doing what you do because you love God with all your heart and want to please Him. It’s having hope, knowing that your reward is not on earth, but in the future and in heaven. It’s walking with the Lord Jesus and God the Father, knowing that you are always with them and they are always with you, and that they always love you and see you. And *“your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”* Matthew 6:4

Remember what Jesus told us, *“I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done”* (Rev. 22:12). That we are now living in the end-times means Christ is coming back very, very soon, and so it won’t be long before you receive your reward from Him. *“The time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”* Revelation 11:18



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