



The Rewards Of The Faithful

I Peter 3:8-18

The Rewards Of The Faithful

- The strong need to encourage the weak
- Even among the strong, there are degrees of faithfulness
 - Matthew 13:18-23 – “some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty”
- The faithful must have a reason for their faith
 - I Peter 3:15-16 – “a reason concerning the hope”

Are Rewards Promised?

- 25 uses of the English word “reward” in the New Testament
 - “Reward” is translated from four Greek words used about 74 times in the New Testament
- μισθός (misthos) – 21 of the 25 occurrences of “reward” are from this word
 - Strong – “pay for services (literally or figuratively), <whether> good or bad”
 - Matthew 16:27 – “according to his deeds”
 - Isaiah 3:10 – “fruit of their doings”

Should we be seeking rewards?

- **Apostles were concerned – Jesus was understanding**
 - Matthew 19:27-30 – “what then shall we have? ... inherit eternal life”
 - Matthew 6:33 – “seek ye first”
- **Desire can be wrong and evil**
 - James 4:1-4 – “ye ask amiss ... spend it in your pleasures”

Understanding rewards

- Who will give rewards? – two categories
- **Rewards given by men**
 - Not necessarily to be desired
 - Matthew 6:2, 5, 16 – “glory of men ... seen of men”
 - Acts 1:18 – “reward of his iniquity”
- **Rewards given by God**
 - They are to be desired
 - Matthew 6:1 – “reward with your Father”
 - Revelation 22:12 – “reward is with me”
 - Hebrews 11:6 – “he is a rewarder”

Who will receive rewards?

- **From men**
 - **Those they want to honor**
 - See again – Matthew 6:2, 5, 16 – “glory of men ... seen of men”
 - **Those they want to punish**
 - Luke 23:39-41 – “we receive the due reward of our deeds”

Who will receive rewards?

- **From God**
 - **Those who love all**
 - Mark 9:41 – “give you a cup of water”
 - Luke 6:35-36 – “love your enemies ... Be ye merciful”
 - **Those who work in the Kingdom of God**
 - I Corinthians 3:7-9 – “fellow-workers”
 - I Timothy 5:18 – “worthy of his hire”
 - II John 6-8 – “receive a full reward”

Why will God give rewards?

- **Because it has been promised**
 - Hebrews 2:2 – “recompense of reward” [for evil]
 - Hebrews 10:34-36 – “recompense of reward” [for good]
 - Hebrews 11:24-27 – “recompense of reward” [for good]

What will the rewards be?

- Mark 10:28-30 – “in this time ... in the world to come”
- **In this life**
 - Matthew 12:46-50 – “he is my brother, and sister, and mother”
 - II Peter 1:1 – “a like precious faith with us”
 - Acts 4:32 – “they had all things common”
- **In that to follow**
 - John 5:24 – “eternal life”
 - John 6:40 – “eternal life”
 - John 10:28 – “eternal life”
 - Romans 2:5-7 – “eternal life”

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- **Hear the Word of God**
 - Romans 10:8 – *“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach”*
- **Believe in that Word**
 - Romans 10:11 – *“For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be put to shame.”*

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- **Repent of your sins**
 - Acts 3:19 – *“Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord”*
- **Confess that Jesus is the Son of God**
 - I John 4:15 – *“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God abideth in him, and he in God.”*

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- **Be immersed in water (baptized)**
 - Acts 2:38 – *“And Peter (said) unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*