

THE REWARDS OF THE FAITHFUL

I PETER 3:8-18

INTRODUCTION

- The strong need to encourage the weak
- Too often the weak are not present to hear words of admonition and edification
- Even among the faithful, there are degrees of faith
 - Matthew 13:18-23 – “some a hundredfold ...”

INTRODUCTION

- Lessons on faithfulness, dedication, attendance, giving, doing what is right, though needed by all, are usually heard by the “cream,” though it is the less faithful that need it the most.
- The faithful must have a reason
 - I Peter 3:15-16 – “a reason concerning the hope ...”

ARE REWARDS PROMISED?

- 25 uses of the English word *reward* in the NT, translated from four Greek words.
 - The four Greek words are used about 74 times in the New Testament.

ARE REWARDS PROMISED?

- μισθός (misthos) – The Greek word primarily translated *reward*.
 - 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”

ARE REWARDS SOMETHING WE SHOULD SEEK?

- Apostles were concerned – Lord was understanding
 - Matthew 19:24-30 – “what then shall we have ... eternal life”
 - Matthew 6:33 – “seek ye first ... added unto you”
- Desire can be wrong and evil too
 - James 4:1-4 – “ask amiss ...”

UNDERSTANDING REWARDS

- Who will give rewards?
- Two sources
 - Matthew 21:25 – “from heaven or from men?”
- From men – not necessarily desirable
 - Matthew 6:2,5,16 – “They have received their reward”
 - Acts 1:18 – “the reward of his iniquity”

UNDERSTANDING REWARDS

- Who will give rewards?
- Two sources
- From God – desirable
 - Matthew 6:1 – “reward ... Father”
 - Revelation 22:12 – “my reward is with me”
 - Hebrews 11:6 – “he is a rewarder ...”

UNDERSTANDING REWARDS

- Who will receive rewards?
- From men
 - Those they want to honor
 - See Matthew 6:2,5,16 again
 - Those they want to punish
 - Luke 23:39-41 – “due reward of our deeds”
 - αξιος (axios) – “deserving, comparable or suitable”

UNDERSTANDING REWARDS

- Who will receive rewards?
- From God
 - Those who love all men
 - Mark 9:41 – “give you ... water ...”
 - Luke 6:35-36 – “Be ye merciful ...”
 - Those who work in the Kingdom
 - I Corinthians 3:7-9 – “according to his own labor ...”

UNDERSTANDING REWARDS

- Who will receive rewards?
- From God
 - Those who work in the Kingdom
 - I Timothy 5:18 – “labor in the word and in teaching”
 - II John 6-8 – “abideth in the teaching ...”

UNDERSTANDING REWARDS

- Why will God give rewards?
- It has been promised
 - Hebrews 2:2 – “just recompense of reward”
 - Hebrews 10:34-36 – “recompense of reward”
 - Hebrews 11:24-27 – “recompense of reward”

UNDERSTANDING REWARDS

- 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”
 - Acts 4:32 – “they had all things common”

UNDERSTANDING REWARDS

- What will the rewards be?
- In the world to come
 - John 5:24 – “eternal life ...”
 - John 6:40 – “raise him up ...”
 - John 10:28 – “they shall never perish”
 - Romans 2:5-7 – “glory and honor and incorruption ...”

CONCLUSION

- I John 5:11 – “And the witness is this, that God gave unto us *eternal life*, and this life is *in his Son*”

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”

- Hear the Word of God
 - *Romans 10:1* – “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”

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”

- 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”

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”

- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
- *1 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* – “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.”