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Christian Rewards...Why?

by Ian Hufton

Jesus says "...great is your reward in heaven..." (Mat.5:12). Why? Is God interested in rewarding Christians? Traditional teaching avoids the subject of rewards because rewards are "earned" and that would smack of salvation by works. Let's forget "traditional teachings" for a moment and focus on what God's word clearly says. Jesus warns us not to be led astray by false teachings. So all we must do is be true to what we clearly see in the Bible and we will avoid being deceived.

PROOF OF A REWARD SYSTEM

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Heb 11:6)

"Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so persecuted they the prophets who were before you." (Matt 5:12)

"Take heed... deeds... to be seen... Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven." (Matt 6:1)

"that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father...will Himself reward you openly." (Matt 6:4)

"...shut your door, pray to your Father... and your Father who sees in secret will reward you..." (Matt 6:6)

"...do not appear to men to be fasting,... and your Father who sees in secret will reward you..." (Matt 6:18)

"He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward." (Matt 10:41)

"...gives... a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple... by no means lose his reward." (Matt 10:42)

"For the Son of Man will come... He will reward each according to his works." (Matt 16:27)

"But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil." (Luke 6:35)

...he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. (1 Cor 3:8)

If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. (1 Cor 3:14)

Let no one defraud [cheat, beguile] you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, (Col 2:18)

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. (Heb 10:35)

Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. (2 John 1:8)

...and your wrath has come,...And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great,... (Rev 11:18)

...I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. (Rev 22:12)

NOTE: The Father and the Son are planning to **REWARD** people in the future. So says Scripture. But why do we hear so little about the rewards? Is this a deception from Satan? Is Satan using teachers to blind people's eyes to parts of the plan of God? What reasons would Satan have for blinding people about rewards?

GRACE IS ONE PART

This article is not about grace. We can **NEVER** earn our salvation because Christ chose to pay the awesome price long before we were born. We could never earn enough to

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repay Christ. The Father is **NOT** telling us (in Scripture) to “**EARN SALVATION**”. He is telling us we can earn our rewards!

SOME TRUTH-SEEKERS MISS OUT ON REWARDS!

This may seem strange, but some who follow Christ and are resurrected into the Kingdom of God will not receive rewards. Why? Salvation is a gift and rewards are earned **BY SOME**....not all.

Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become manifest [clear]; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, ...as through fire. (1 Cor 3:12-15)

NOTE: There is reward for those who build of **FIRE-RESISTANT** materials and no reward for the others. What reward will King David have? Part of the answer is that David will be King over all Israel. Others will be kings over ten cities or maybe five cities, etc.

...he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. Then came the first, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned ten minas.' ... 'Well done, good servant; . . . you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.' And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.' Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.' (Luke 19:15-19)

NOTE: The third servant had not built anything with the money, but had kept it in a safe place. The Master called this servant a wicked servant. We should all desire to build from the best materials and to bear as much fruit as possible. We can do this from love of God or desire for rewards **OR BOTH**.

WORK FOR REWARDS...NOW!

If we are faithful to God and endure to the end we will be given the free gift of eternal life. After that the really big question is... “What rewards did we earn?” Will our reward be ten cities? Now is the time to realize that we determine our rewards by what we do here in **THIS** lifetime. Our “works” for Christ need to be the **BEST POSSIBLE**, now, while we have breath in our bodies. Later will be too late.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father..” (Matt 5:16)

...Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham's children,

you would do the works of Abraham.” (John 8:39)

“... he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works... he will do...” (John 14:12)

...translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. (Acts 9:36)

“But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. (Acts 10:35)

...to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance. (Acts 26:20)

eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and... but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness — indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also... of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also the Greek. (Romans 2:7-10)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works... that we should walk in them. (Eph 2:10)

Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, (1 Tim 6:18)

They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work. (Titus 1:16)

in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, (Titus 2:7)

...that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify... His... special people, zealous for good works. (Titus 2:14)

This is a faithful saying ... I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men. (Titus 3:8)

And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful. (Titus 3:14)

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, (Heb 10:24)

Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (James 2:17)

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But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.”... “and I will show you my faith by my works.”
(James 2:18)

But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?
(James 2:20)

Do you see that faith was working together with his works...by works faith was made perfect? (James 2:22)

having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.
(1 Peter 2:12)

“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. ...”
(Rev 2:2)

“...you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else...I will remove your lampstand from its place...”
(Rev 2:5)

“I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); ...”
(Rev 2:9)

“I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is... you hold fast to My name...”
(Rev 2:13)

“I know your works, love, service, faith, ...and as for your works, the last are more than the first.”
(Rev 2:19)

“...I am He who searches the minds and hearts.. I will give to each... according to your works.”
(Rev 2:23)

“And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations”
(Rev 2:26)

“...in Sardis write, ... “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.”
(Rev 3:1)

“Be watchful, and strengthen the things... for I have not found your works perfect before God.”
(Rev 3:2)

“I know your works. See, ...”
(Rev 3:8)

“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish ...”
(Rev 3:15)

The sea gave up the dead who were in it, ... and they were judged, each one according to his works. (Rev 20:13)

After God does the “grace” part, the **ALL IMPORTANT** thing for us to concentrate on is having **WORKS** that are pleasing to God. If we are zealous of good works we will not be deceived into turning away from God and His teachings.

So let us be zealous and work the **WORKS** of Jesus.

(All Scripture references are NKJV)

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