

# Rewards or Loss, Which Shall It Be?

## Introduction:

We learn from the Word of God that **all Christians must appear before the Judgement Seat of Christ** that we might receive a reward for the deeds done in the body, or there we will suffer the loss of rewards.

- The judgment Seat of Christ (II Cor. 5:9, 10; Rom 14:10-12) is not related to some secret sin that will be judged. It is not related to the revelation of some hidden fault but it is **the time of the judgment of all of the deeds done** in the body by each individual Christian, after they were saved whether those things be good or bad.
- All our works will be as hay, wood, stubble, or as gold, silver, and precious stones. It all depends upon us.
- GOOD is that which has worth, and will be rewarded. BAD is that which has no worth, is worthless, and we will suffer loss.

## I. THE IMPORTANCE OF REWARDS:

- Rewards, which are promised in the Scriptures to believers are described in a number of different ways in the Word of God. One of the ways is the useage of the Word, **Crowns**.

### *A. Seen in the message to the Church of Philadelphia:*

1. In Chapters two and three of the Book of Revelation we read of the 7 churches which gives us a picture of the entire history of the Church age.
2. The Church of Philadelphia -- is that church which is typical of all true believers in the midst of the Laodicean church age of the last days.
3. This church exists right along side the Laodicean church of the last days. The Philadelphian church represents the saved of all ages.
4. The Laodicean church (7th) is the church that has great wealth, is satisfied, feels it has need of nothing. God in the person of the His Son has departed from it.
5. The Philadelphian church is symbolic of the church that also exists at the very end of the age, or at the time Christ comes again. To which He said, **Be careful that something does not happen to your crown.**

Some might say -- *You know I don't think we ought to even talk about rewards. We ought to serve the Lord just because we love Him.* Well, we ought to serve Him because we love him, but we have ever right and reason to be interested also in rewards. We ought to think about and prepare to have rewards in that day to come. We should desire to hear the words, *Well done, thou good and faithful servant.* We will stand before HIM at the Bema Seat, the Judgment seat of Christ.

Some might say, *"Oh, as long as I get to heaven, that is all that matters. I know that I will be there and that is good enough for me. As long as I am in the door that is all that really matters. Is this really true?"*

**B. This is seen in the life and goal of Moses -- (Heb. 11:23-26)**

1. He had a chance to Go with God, or Go with the elite, educated, powerful, prominent, the leaders of his day. Why did he suffer the affliction of his own people? Why did he not enter into the wealth, pomp, ceremony, position, prestige and power of that day? Because he loved God for he had his eyes upon HIM who is invisible. But also because he **looked for the reward -- the recompense of doing right.**
2. He looked steadily at the ultimate, not the immediate reward for he weighted the reward in comparison of the recompense of world's offers.

**C. It is seen in the message to the Corinthian Church -- (I Cor. 3:12-14)**

1. Paul had laid the foundation and said, "*take heed how you build there upon.*" The idea here is that of life-building for the Lord. The foundation upon which we build is Christ and we must make a choice of the building materials. We must carefully choose for it will be either imperishable or perishable materials -- which will it be?
2. What concerned Paul most was the fact that it was possible to have a life well laid in Christ, yet to have its superstructure, (of character and service), made of materials that would be both inferior and unworthy.

**applications:**

First of all be sure your life is founded on Christ -- born again without doubt. Then be careful about the selection of materials -- be sure that they belong to the imperishable class.

They must pass the inspection of the building laws of eternity. We must build for the eternal duration.

**D. The testing time will come -- by Lord Himself.**

1. Our lives work after salvation will be reviewed; every man's work shall be made manifest. It is the work not the man which is being reviewed and tested. It is not about salvation but about rewards, about crowns, about service. It is a question of what the man has done for Christ after salvation.
2. The Judgment seat is a place and fire and will try us for *Our God is a consuming fire*. This means the holiness of God is used also as an emblem of affliction. The fiery trial comes about because God's holiness will try us, will test us in what we have done, how we have lived and served in this life. **There will be reward or loss of reward.**

**II. THE INCENTIVES FOR REWARDS:**

**A. Because WE desire to win the crown -- to be crowned!**

1. (II Tim. 2:3-5) No man entering the athletic games can expect to win the prize unless he abides by the rules.
2. The object of the race is not salvation, not eternal life (eternal life is the free gift of God) -- but to be rewarded for sacrificial, consecrated service.

**B. Because WE desire to win the race -- (I Cor. 9:24-25)**

1. What is the incentive for doing your best? What is the incentive for using your talents, your God given-gifts, your life for HIM and HIS glory? What is the incentive for throwing yourself totally into living for Christ?? -- Rewards or crowns? What is the incentive for striving lawfully? Is it now rewards that we can cast at His feet?
2. But you say, *“I personally do not believe a crown is that important, I do not care whether I have a crown or not. If I just get to heaven, that is all that I truly care about”* If that is how you feel **you do not really know what the judgment seat of Christ will be like.** Really your concept of it is very poor at best.

**C. Because WE labor to be accepted** -- (II Cor. 5:8-10)

1. We should labor or work at serving to be acceptable to HIM while in this body here and now.
2. We should want to be acceptable, well pleasing. (I Jh 2:28)
3. Paul gives a good reason why we should work at it, because: (Phil. 2:12-14)

**D. Because of the terror of the Lord** -- (II Cor. 5:11-12)

1. Apostle Paul was very serious at the thought of appearing at the Judgment Seat of Christ. He did not want to be empty-handed.
2. He went out and worked as the only thing he had to do. *Sacrificing, travailing night and day.* (See I Thess. 2:9; 3:8; Acts 20:31-32; Acts 26:19) Some thought he was out of his mind, or lost his mind because of the sense of his urgency. The love of Christ (vs 14) constrained Paul in the light of the Judgment Seat of Christ.
3. Will YOU stand there without anything for which to be rewarded? Will you suffer **loss**??
4. If you are genuinely born-again , filled with the Holy Spirit of God then **get a glimpse of the judgment seat of Christ, my friend, surely we would desire to not LOSE OUR REWARD!**

**Wouldn't that be incentive enough??**

- a. not to backside
- b. to give our all
- c. to be consistent, faithful
- d. to work for His glory
- e. to labor for souls, yea, for reward now?
- f. to labor for souls to be saved -- Luke 14

**E. Because WE desire a full reward!** (II Jh 8)

1. So run the race to obtain the prize. Run the race of life for Christ **by the rules** to obtain the prize.
2. Some think they can **support the ecumenical crowd, the liberal crowd, the compromising crowd and still receive their reward??**
4. See II John 8-11. -- **Don't throw away all the labor that has been spent on you,** but persevere until God gives you your reward.

- a. Be watchful, with a watchful eye on all the things about you in order that you may receive the reward that God wants you to have.
- b. Will someone take your crown? (Rev. 3:11)

### **III. THE IMPARTING OF REWARDS:** Rev. 4:10, 11

#### ***A. Rewards are NOT for the LOST -- Rev. 4***

1. No unsaved person will have rewards for his end will be the lake of fire. It was not be heaven based upon being good enough.
2. Salvation is only through the finished work of Christ (Acts 4:12) and none will be in heaven except by faith in His shed blood for the remission of their sin.
3. The lost will be lost for all eternity. Hell is an eternal place.

#### ***B. Reward are for service for Christ's own.***

1. We will cast them at HIS feet realizing that all is ours by grace, and we are not worthy... He is worthy of glory and honor, and riches.
2. They are given with the intent that we keep them nor were they given with the intent we carry them all eternity.
4. Rewards are something to indicate God's approval of our service. There are five different crowns given for different reasons. It is not intent to study the kinds of crowns in this sermon. Rewarde are something to indicate you have run the race well.

#### **Consider:**

The question is ... will you lose your reward? Will you have lose, and be saved "so as by fire?" This is an awesome question that begs our answer. What will it be for you... don't let another take your reward because of your indifference, neglect, or disobedience. Don't make it necessary for the Lord to raise up some other Christian to do the task He has called you to do. You will have great sorrow, tears of remorse due to such neglect. This you will not want!