

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, September 4, 2022 The Book of Philippians

Message Summary:

This week in our series, The Book of Philippians, Pastor Pascale Williams returned to Philippians 1:10-11:

[Phil. 1:10-11 NKJV] ...that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Phil. 1:10 tells us that there is a big day coming soon when we will stand before Jesus. All the things you usually invest in in this life – success, family, degrees, achievements, possessions – will pass away in that moment. So what will remain? This is your responsibility to prepare for your big day. The hope is that by making daily choices to choose the things that are excellent, you will fill your life with the fruit of righteousness, which gives glory and praise to God! Hebrews 11:6 tells us that God is a rewarder! He wants to give you good things, both in this life and in the one to come. So what do you need to do in this life to build your ledger and increase your rewards? What is God most interested and invested in?

The Bible tells us faith without works is dead (James 2:20). God has done his part, and there is a part to we have to do. Not to earn our salvation, only Jesus could do that for us! But out of the gratitude of what Jesus has done for us, there is a response expected from us. And that response is good works fueled by our faith! Our works will be measured and rewarded by their quality and their quantity. Just like the difference between gold, silver and precious metals versus wood, hay and straw, God can tell the difference in the quality and quantity of our works. And it all comes down to the condition of our heart as we do these good works. The good works that truly matter to the Lord are the time we spend with Him, what we do in secret, our response in hard times, how we steward our time, talent and treasure, and finally, how we treat the Word of God. Don't be afraid to ask God to give you a report card in how you are doing in these areas: your relationship with God, your spirit, your soul, your body, your relationships with others, your management of your resources, and your God-given assignment in this life. Knowing will help you to ensure you are building a life that yields rewards!

Other Scriptures:

*[Hebrews 11:6 NKJV] 6 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.*

[James 2:26 NKJV] 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think it means to “build your ledger” in this life?
2. What is the different between quality and quantity when it comes to good works?
3. Why does the condition of our heart matter it comes to our good works?

Life Application:

This week, reread our key verses for today, Philippians 1:10-11. Pastor Pascale said, “We can know what God is looking for and begin to build our ledger now. Since we have a relationship with God, we can ask Him how we are doing, just like a report card.” This week, ask God to give you a report card. How are you doing in these areas: your relationship with God, your spirit, your soul, your body, your relationships with others, your management of your resources, and your assignment. This report card should help guide you as you build your ledger and increase your rewards in this life.