

Fellowship Notes



January 10th, 2021

Resources Available in FELLOWSHIP CAFÉ:

Booklet: Heaven: Biblical Answers to Common Questions (FREE)

Books: Heaven: God's Answers for your Every Need

Heaven - One of the most complete studies on the subject of heaven

Heaven for Kids – Answers kids will understand about heaven

Daily Personal and/or Group Study Guide: Heaven

Tract: How Can We Know We'll Go to Heaven? (FREE)

SALVATION

Past (1 John 3:2)

Free (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Can't be lost (John 10:27-29)

Same for all Believers (Rom. 3:22)

For those who believe (John 3:16)

Key Word: _____ - determines our
eternal *destination* - where we'll
be for eternity

REWARDS

Future (Rev. 22:12)

Earned (1 Cor. 3:8)

Can be lost (2 John 1:8)

Differ among Believers (1 Cor. 3:12-15)

For believers who work faithfully (1 Cor. 9:27)

Key Word: _____ – determines our
eternal *rewards* – what we'll have and
what we'll do when we get there.

Biblical Principle of Heavenly Rewards:

We will all have differing levels of rewards and differing levels of responsibilities in heaven,
depending on our _____ on earth.



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What is God Going to Reward?

1. _____ - Matthew 6:6, 17-18
2. Having compassion for the _____ - Matthew 25:37-40
3. Bearing insults and being _____ for the name of Christ - Luke 6:22-23
4. Loving your _____ - Luke 6:35
5. Giving _____ - Luke 6:38
6. _____ that cannot be repaid - Luke 14:12-14
7. Enduring pressures in _____ - 2 Corinthians 4:17-18
8. Quality work for your _____ - Colossians 3:23-24
9. Keeping _____ through trials - 1 Peter 1:6-7
10. Being _____ to the truth - 2 John 1:7-8

How Will We Be Rewarded?

1. The Reward of: _____ – Revelation 20:6; Matthew 25:21-23; Luke 19:17-24
2. The Reward of: _____
 - 1.) The Crown of _____ – given for faithfulness to Christ in persecution or martyrdom (James 1:12; Revelation 2:19).
 - 2.) The _____ – given for determination, discipline, and victory in the Christian life (1 Corinthians 9:24-25).
 - 3.) The Crown of _____ – given for pouring oneself into others in evangelism and discipleship (1 Thessalonians 2:19; Philippians 4:1).
 - 4.) The Crown of _____ – given for faithfully representing Christ in a position of spiritual leadership (1 Peter 5:1-4)
 - 5.) The Crown of _____ – given for joyfully purifying and readying oneself to meet Christ at his return (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

Everything you do today, matters _____!

Rewards in Heaven Growth Groups Study Guide

GETTING STARTED

Group Discussion: What if you knew that from this moment on, everything you ever did would be caught on camera – to be reviewed one day by the person you love and respect the most? How would your life change?

Briefly review this morning's message. How does the emphasis on rewards in heaven in the Bible match up with what you've been taught about how God blesses, prospers, or rewards his children?

DIGGING DEEPER

This morning we discussed rewards for believers at the Judgement Seat of Christ. If the word *judgment* leaves you feeling nervous or feeling guilty, you might be missing the promise of God's goodness. To judge means to make a decision. A righteous judge measures every decision by what is right and fair. His verdict brings justice to a person or situation. That's why all through the Bible, God's people expressed a desire for, and trust in, God's judgment. David wrote: *"The trees of the woods shall rejoice before the Lord, for He is coming to judge the earth. Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."* 1 Chronicles 16:33-34

One day the Apostle Paul was brought before a magistrate in Corinth and accused of persuading people to *"worship God contrary to the law"* (Acts 18:13). Paul's judge sat on a platform called a bema. In New Testament times, the bema represented justice and authority. Officials at athletic contests also sat on a bema to determine winners and distribute awards. The magistrate decided that Paul had not broken the law, but Paul's experience in Corinth adds special meaning to what he wrote about another bema – the bema of Christ. *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat (bema) of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."* 2 Corinthians 5:10

Fill in the blanks from the verse above:

- a. "We must all appear" shows that _____, not just some, will be judged."
- b. The person on the bema of heaven will be _____. Why do you believe this is a good thing?
- c. "Each one" shows that we will be judged not as group but as _____.
- d. "Things done in the body" shows that rewards will be based on deeds we did while we were _____ on earth.
- e. "May receive" and "according to what he has done" indicate that a reward may or may _____ be given at that time.

Group Discussion: Why do you think some Christians aren't aware of the judgment seat of Christ even though the Bible discusses it repeatedly?

To fully understand what will be tested at the bema of Jesus, we should be very clear on what will NOT be up for review there.

1. YOU will not be tested. Notice that the emphasis in all these passages is not on who you are, but on what you _____. You will not be subjected to fire, only your deeds will.

2. YOUR BELIEFS will not be tested, and you cannot lose your salvation at the bema. Read John 5:24 and 6:27. Jesus reveals that the person who believes in Him “_____ life”. Therefore, the purpose of the judgment seat of Christ cannot be to review your eternal destination.

3. YOUR SINS will not be judged. To stand at the bema, you must already be in heaven, forgiven of your sins because of what you believed about Jesus while you were alive on earth. Because you put your faith in Him for your salvation, God accepted His death on Calvary as full, once-and-for-all payment for your sins. You can never again be judged for them.

Turn to 1 Corinthians 3:15 and read it. If our salvation won't be tested at the bema and our sins won't be revisited how could we then “suffer loss”? In 1 Corinthians 9:27 Paul said that he disciplined himself so that he would not “become disqualified”. Paul did not fear losing his salvation but rather the Lord's commendation – his reward. Turn to 2 John 1:8 and read it.

“The loss” suffered by believers at the bema is the loss of Christ's reward as a result of our wrong choices here on earth.

CLOSING DISCUSSION:

The closing thought from Sunday morning was “Everything you do today, matters forever.” What are some practical ways that you could guard or redirect your choices this week so that what you do will matter in heaven and you won't “suffer loss”?

What questions do you have about heaven's rewards?