

Understanding Rewards

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday Jan. 8th

Last year we spent some time discussing how to better “Recognize” God’s words and works so that we might better “Respond” to Him. This year I’d like to start out discussing why we should “bother” to adjust our lives so that we can “partner” with God in the accomplishment of His plans and purposes. What are the “Risks for refusing and what are the Rewards for doing so?

1 Cor. 3:9 reminds us that *“we are aborers together with God.”* The following verses remind us that we don’t have to “cooperate” with Him and that we’re free to “build” our lives around our own priorities. Vs 14 reminds us that to the degree that we do partner with God, *“he shall receive a reward.”* Vs 15 reminds us that those who fail to grasp the significance of God’s plan and choose rather to make the choices to build their lives around their own: *“shall suffer loss: but...shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”*

The word “Reward” is found 178 times in scripture. There are 16 different words God uses to describe the “Rewards” associated with Serving Him.

1) 1st reference: Genesis 15:1 *“After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.”*

Exceeding: me’ōd (to magnify greatly) *Great:* rābâ’: to increase, heap up, multiply

Reward: Šākār’: Payment of a contract, salary, compensation, benefit

Translated: hire 9, reward 9, wages 6, price 2, fare 1, worth 1

2) Ruth 2:12 *“The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.”* Maškōret: (from Sakar): wages

3) David in 2 Samuel 22:21 *“The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness: according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.”* Gāmal’: To requite, recompense, benefit

4) Psalm 19:10-11 *“the Law of the Lord...More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”* ay'-keb: eternal compensation.

5) Psalm 58:10-11 *“The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance... So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.”*

Peri’: fruit, reward

Translated: fruit or fruitful 115x, reward 1x

6) Pro 11:18 *“to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.”* seh'-ker: wages

7) Pro 13:13 *“Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.”* shaw-lam' to be safe, completed, or to reciprocate.

Translated: pay 19, peace 11, recompense 11, reward 10, render 9, restore 8, repay 7

8) Pro 24:14 *“So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.”* akh-ar-eeth': Future posterity.

Translated: end 31, latter 12, last 7, posterity 3, reward 2

New Testament: Rewards found 38 times.

- 1) Mt 5:11-12 *"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven."*
mis-thos': pay for service. Translated reward 24, hire 3, wages 2
- 2) Mt 16:26-27 *"what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."* ap-od-eed'-o-mee: repay, recompense.
Translated: pay 9, give 9, render 9, reward 7
- 3) Lk 23:41 *"we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss."*
ax'-ee-os: deserving, suitable. Translated worthy 35, meet 4, due reward 1
- 4) Col 3:23-24 *"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."* an-tap-od'-os-is: requital
- 5) Hebrews 11:6 *"without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."* mis-thap-od-ot'-ace: remunerate, reward
- 6) Hebrews 11:26 *"By faith Moses refused...choosing rather to suffer affliction...Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward."*
mis-thap-od-os-ee'-ah: recompense 3x
- 7) Mt. 6:20 *"Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven..."* thay-sow-ros': deposits, wealth (18 times)

Conclusion:

Every one of the 15 different words God uses to describe eternal rewards have the idea of "repayment" or "reimbursement" (with INTEREST) for some service or investment!

Application:

Too many believers have an "eternal entitlement mentality". They assume God will just "hand out rewards" for showing up! (*While few even bother to "show up" for church!*)

- What we truly believe will determine where we will spend eternity!
- How we "behave" (what we do) will determine our Rewards!

Missionary Jim Elliot said *"He is no fool who sacrifices what he cannot keep in order to gain what he cannot lose!"*

Jesus put it another way: *He is a fool who sacrifices what he cannot lose in order to cling to something he cannot keep.* (See Luke 12:16-21)

The last reference to Eternal Rewards sums them up appropriately: Revelation 22:12

"behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be"
mis-thos': pay for service.

Are you "earning your pay"? (See Eph. 4:1)

Are you "investing" in eternity? (See Mt. 6:20)