

THE CHURCH'S REWARD

2 Corinthians 5:10

Introduction: God's family, the Church, is blessed in countless ways and to be a member, a part of God's wonderful family, is the greatest blessing a person can have. For a member of God's family, the Church is under GRACE, and will not be judged as an unbeliever - **Romans 8:2; Colossians 2:13-14**. A member of God's family, the Church, is united with Jesus Christ and is therefore accepted as perfect - **Ephesians 1:6**. A member of God's family, the Church, is under God's Grace and stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive his/her reward - **Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10**. A member of God's family, the Church, will be caught up to be with the Lord Jesus and receive his/her new everlasting body and be taken to Heaven - **2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 22:12; Luke 14:14; Matthew 16:27**.

The non believer in Jesus, the unsaved, the lost will stand before the Great White Throne of God **Revelation 20:11-15** and his/her works will be judged, not for salvation or for reward.

- They will receive degrees of penalty, punishment accessed upon the results of their being judge.
On what grounds will the believer, the child of God be rewarded?

1. Believers will be rewarded on/by the stewardship of their lives. (**Romans 14:10-12**)

- The believer is NOT accountable for the lives of others, but for his/her own individual life.
- Here is reason to not be critical of others)

- The believer is accountable for everything God has entrusted to him/her, body, mind, possessions, influence, opportunities, etc.

- Again, the believer is not accountable for anyone else but him/herself.

2. Believers will be rewarded on the life-type built after his/her salvation. (**1 Corinthians 3:9-14**)

- Jesus Christ is the basis, foundation of the new life to be built by the believer.

- What the believer in Jesus adds in a way of building his/her life will be judged by Jesus Christ.
Galatians 5:16 - whether it be gold, silver, hay, wood or stubble.

- Anything in a believer's life which pleases Jesus will be rewarded, all else will be cast away.

3. Believers will be rewarded by how they "ran the race of life." (**1 Corinthians 9:16-27**)

- As an athlete gives of him/herself to win a race, so must the believer commit him/herself to his/her life for Jesus Christ.

- As the runners are rewarded for their part in running a race, so are believers to be rewarded in how they ran the "race of life."

- An incorruptible crown awarded to every believer.
- A crown of rejoicing.
- A crown of life.
- A crown of glory.
- A crown of reward.

CONCLUSION:

1. Reward is the counterpart of Grace.
2. Works do not save nor keep one saved.
3. God does notice good works and will reward every good work (even a cup of water).
4. The believer owes God NOTHING for salvation.
5. The believer does owe God a life of total devotion BECAUSE of salvation.
6. Faithfulness here during one's lifetime determines reward and privilege to serve in ETERNITY.