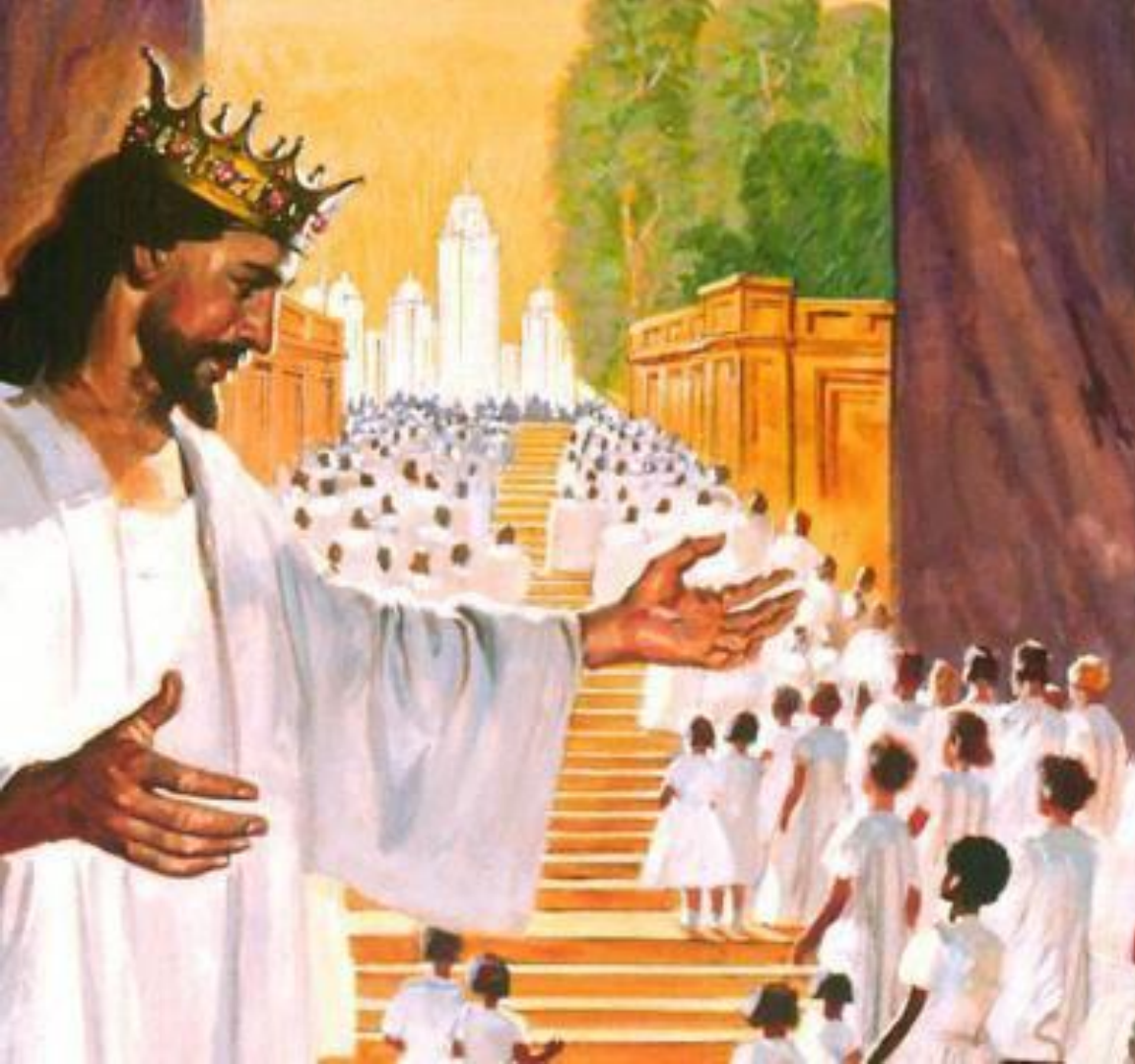


REWARDS OF FAITHFULNESS



Lesson 12 for
March 25, 2023



"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord'""

(Matthew 25:21)

When we accept the salvation Jesus won at the cross, we are “created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10). “Each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.” (1Co. 3:8)

If “it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (Phlp. 2:13), then why should He reward us? On the other hand, what reward awaits us?



The rewards:

- His reward
- Eternal life
- Being with Jesus



Faithfulness:

- Managing for the Master...
- ...till He comes

THE REWARDS

HIS REWARD

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work." (Revelation 22:12)

Who will receive their reward from Jesus when He returns?

**The righteous
(Ps. 58:11)**

**Those who
sow
righteousness
(Pr. 11:18)**

**Those who are
persecuted for
their faith
(Mt. 5:12)**

**Those who
love their
enemies
(Lk. 6:35)**

**Those who
have
confidence
(Heb. 10:35)**

**Those who
seek Him
(Heb. 11:6)**

**The prophets, the saints,
those who fear His name
(Rev. 11:18)**

**The reward will be proportional to the work of each person (1Co. 3:8 NIV).
Does that mean we're saved by our works? Absolutely not!**

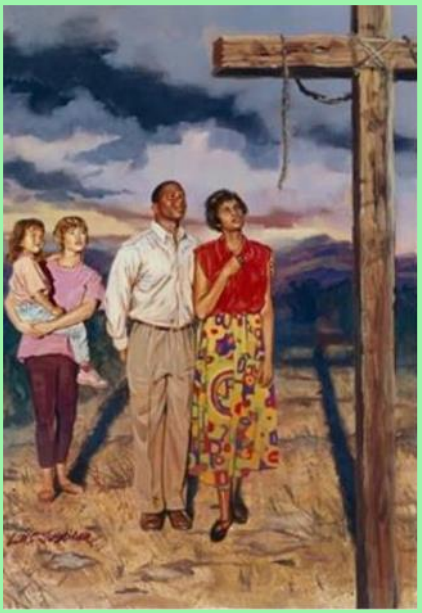
**Salvation is a gift that everyone can receive no matter their work (Tit. 3:5).
Each saved person will receive their "crown," a fair reward (2Tim. 4:8).**



ETERNAL LIFE

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

What do we actually deserve? What is our "wage"? Just death. What does God give us as a "gift"? Eternal life (Ro. 6:23).



This is an underserved reward, a fate completely different to the one we deserve. Everyone can receive this reward if they accept it by faith (Jn. 3:16).

Jesus said, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me." (Jn. 14:1 NLT)

The death and resurrection of Jesus guarantee our eternal life (Ro. 6:3-4), but we must wait until His Second Coming to receive this reward (Jn. 14:3).



BEING WITH JESUS

"They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads." (Revelation 22:4 NIV)

Those who believed before us were expecting God to give them a city (Heb. 11:10, 16).

**We have the same hope: to live in the New Jerusalem, the city for "the nations of those who are saved" (Rev. 21:24).
What will we find there?**



God's loving hand will wipe away our tears. Pain and death will be no more (Rev. 21:4)



The garden of Eden, where we will reach and eat from the Tree of Life (Gn. 3:22; Rev. 22:2)



Jesus. We will see Him face to face (Rev. 22:4 NIV)

FAITHFULNESS

MANAGING FOR THE MASTER...

"And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey." (Matthew 25:15)

The parable of the talents deals with the way we've manage what God has given us, in the context of the End Time (Mt. 25:14-30).

We must manage our natural talents, the gifts the Holy Spirit has put in us, and everything God has given us. He only gives us as much as we can manage.

Everyone is responsible for the gifts and resources they've been given, no matter how many. The reward is worth it (Mt. 25:23).



...TILL HE COMES

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Romans 8:18)



Paul went through many troubles because of his faithfulness to Jesus (2Co. 11:23-28). We probably won't have to go through that, but we've not been promised an easy life (2Tim. 3:12).

Apparently, Paul didn't live a prosperous life. However, what does the Bible say about living a prosperous and happy life (1Tim. 6:6-12)?



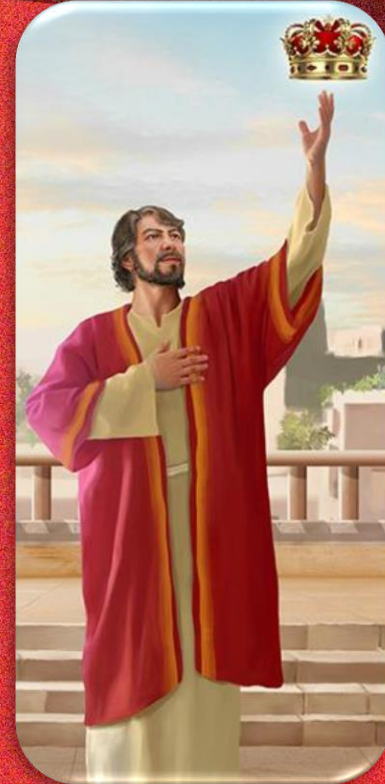
It's not about having many possessions

It's about having what you need when you need it

It's about clinging to God's promises

It's about being thankful to God and trusting Him

When Jesus returns, we will receive our fair reward for having managed what is His (2Tim. 4:6-8).



“Do all church members realize that all they have is given them to be used and improved to God's glory? God keeps a faithful account with every human being in our world. And when the day of reckoning comes, the faithful steward takes no credit to himself [...]

The approval of the Lord is received almost with surprise, it is so unexpected. But Christ says to him, ‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.’”