

Personal Evangelism

John 16:7-11

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(11)
(Continuation from 06/20/12)

The Message: God's Plan of Salvation, John 16:7-11

Section III.

Chastening and Rewards

An example of a Christian taken home by God before his time because of sin is found in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5. This person was committing adultery with his mother (or stepmother). Verse five says this person's body was destroyed—he was taken home—but please notice that he did not lose his salvation.

In 1 Corinthians 3:15 we read, “If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.” Sin in the life of a Christian will result in a loss of his joy, power, testimony, fellowship, *and reward*.

The passage of Scripture, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, should be clearly understood by the soul winner because it gives a good picture of what happens at the Judgment Seat of Christ for believers, and understanding this subject thoroughly will better enable you to answer questions that the lost often ask, such as: “How could God be just and fair if He lets both good people and bad people into heaven?”

Even though everyone is a sinner, and even though Christ has given complete forgiveness of all sin to all those who receive Him as Savior, yet God still has many ways of seeing that those who truly serve Him are rewarded, and those who do not serve Him suffer loss of reward both on earth and later in heaven.

Notice, in 1 Corinthians 3:11, that the only foundation God recognizes is the foundation of Jesus Christ. Then, in verse 12, the Christian may build either good or bad works in his life once he is saved. In verse 13 we find that God will judge every person's work to see what was good and what was bad. Verse 14 says that those who have done good work will receive reward, but verse 15 clearly teaches that those who have not done good works will suffer loss of reward even though they will not lose their salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us we are saved by grace through faith, but verse ten says, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God;*

⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

God wants His children to live a life of service to Him—**not to *be* saved, but because they *are* saved.**

After a person trusts Christ for salvation he should heed [Romans 12:1-2](#) for service,
[Romans 12:1-2 \(NASB\)](#)

¹ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.*

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

A life of service for the Lord will be richly rewarded both now and later. When you obey God's Word and let the Lord run your life, you will have love, joy, and peace in your life ([Galatians 5:22](#)).

[Galatians 5:22 \(NASB\)](#)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

God promises, **"If they hear and serve Him, They will end their days in prosperity And their years in pleasures."** ([Job 36:11](#)).

Jesus said, **"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly"** ([John 10:10](#)).

If you want God to honor your life, you must serve Him. And if you DO serve the Lord, God is BOUND to honor your life. **"If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him"** ([John 12:26](#)). The "secret" of "Christian Victory" is no more or less than **obeying God**. You might sometimes think disciplining your life to serve the Lord is difficult. What you want to do will often be the opposite of what God wants you to do, but the reward is great... and have you considered what it will cost you if you do *not* serve the Lord?

Job exhorts, **"Wise in heart and mighty in strength, Who has defied Him without harm?"** ([Job 9:4](#)).

Listen to the warning in [Deuteronomy 28:47-48](#),

[Deuteronomy 28:47-48 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴⁷ Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things;

⁴⁸ therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in the lack of all things; and He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you.