

Understanding Eternal Rewards

Study Questions

Getting Started

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this week's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.
2. Would you agree or disagree with the statement, "It is difficult for Christians to focus on eternal rewards promised in the Bible? Share your reason(s) behind your response.
3. What was your view of heaven before this message? How does the view of heaven presented by Pastor motivate us to desire it more and invest in it?
4. Pastor shared three Biblical reason for the believer to give. Was there any of the Three Reasons for Giving stood out to you? Why?
5. How do you think of giving— as obligation or opportunity? What is that based on? How would God have you look at it?*
6. Read Hebrews 11:24-26. What insight can we learn from these words about Moses experience? What did he give up? What did he gain?
7. Why do you believe it is difficult for Christians today to focus on eternity and laying up treasures in heaven as opposed to in the world?*
8. What are some earthly blessings/rewards that you have experienced that you know are the result of your faithfulness to God?
9. Pastor shared four different type of Eternal rewards. Is there one that appeals to you more than the others? Share with the group your reason why.
10. What might be some modern applications for 1 Timothy 6:17-19?

Digging Deeper

11. Pray about how God might have you invest in your eternal portfolio.

(*Questions adapted from Eternity Portfolio)

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Series: My Eternity Portfolio

Sunday March 13, 2016

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."
Revelation 21:3 ESV

My Giving: Obligation or Opportunity

"And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." *Matthew 22:37-39 ESV*

Three Biblical Reasons for Giving

1. I give out of a sense of gratitude for what God has done for me and how He has provided for my needs.

"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you."

1 Chronicles 29:14 ESV

2. I give to show my love for God in worship of Him.

"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God."

2 Corinthians 9:11 ESV

3. I give as a tangible fulfillment of my responsibility to love other people, to help provide for their needs.

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." *Hebrews 13:16 ESV*

It Requires Trust to Keep an Eternal Focus

“By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.” Hebrews 11:24–26 ESV

The Promise of Earthly Rewards

“Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.” Proverbs 3:9–10 ESV

“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.” Proverbs 11:24–25 ESV

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:6–11 ESV

“give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” Luke 6:38 ESV

The Promise of Eternal Rewards

Four Types of Eternal Rewards

1. Verbal Recognition

“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’” Matthew 25:21 ESV

2. Crowns

“Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.” 2 Timothy 4:8 ESV

3. Treasure

“Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.” Luke 12:33 ESV

4. Positions of Authority

“if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;” 2 Timothy 2:12 ESV

“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”

1 Timothy 6:17–19 ESV