



Is God Fun? Heaven Is Fun! God Wants To Reward You.

July 31, 2022 – Part 4

Luke 12 ³² So don't ever be afraid, dearest friends! Your loving Father joyously gives you his kingdom with all its promises! TPT

Hebrews 11 ⁶ And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. NLT

Romans 14 ^{10b} ...For we each will have our turn to stand before God's judgment seat. TPT

1 Corinthians 3 ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. NKJV

Romans 14 ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of rules about food and drink, but is in the realm of the Holy Spirit, filled with righteousness, peace, and joy. TPT

1 Thessalonians 2 ¹⁹ After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you! ²⁰ Yes, you are our pride and joy. NLT

So if love and relationship is the goal of life on earth, why would we think God wants to tear that apart or take relationship from us in Heaven? Nothing could be further from the truth. The whole point of this life is the creation of a spiritual family for God. The power of God can unite people in ways that overcome our relational squabbles and concerns, and that's what He will do for all His children. Don't worry about family feuds in Heaven. God created love, relationship, and family, and they remain important to Him in Heaven.

The Old Testament prophets and Jesus talk about two separate judgments. The great white throne judgment is a judgment of faith and determines who belongs to God. The bema seat judgment is actually a rewards ceremony for all who belong to God. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small – and for destroying those who destroy the earth” (Revelation 11:15, 18).

“Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:14-15). God cannot allow those unwilling to submit to his rule into his eternal kingdom or they would corrupt it like we did the earth and humanity. “Nothing impure will ever enter [the City of God], nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life” (Revelation 21:27).

“I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life” (John 5:24 NLT).

God loves to reward every faithful act, deed, even motive, and that's what will happen at the bema seat judgment. We don't earn God's love or acceptance into Heaven; that's a gift we receive or reject. But all our deeds determine our *experience* of Heaven – what we take with us from this life.

Jesus said, "For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and **then he will reward each person according to what they have done**" (Matthew 16:27).

What Gets Rewarded Eternally?

Perseverance Matters: "**Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial** because, having stood the test, **that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him**" (James 1:22). God personally promises to reward our perseverance. When no one else could see how hard it was for us, yet we clung to him and endured – he knows, he sees, and he's keeping track of everything.

Seeking God Matters: "Now there is in store 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 longed for his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:8) Faith is another word for trust. You can't have a relationship without trust. That's why faith matters so much to God. We show our love for him by seeking him, seeking his will and ways, and trusting what he says in Scripture. No one else can see all those decisions made by faith each day, yet God records every one. He will one day reward them all. Anyone who obeys God's laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matthew 5:18-19 NLT).

Serving the Least Matters: People matter to God. He cares about those who get neglected, outcast, marginalized, unseen by most because they can't do anything for us. God sees though, and when we act unselfishly to serve those who can't do anything for us, it will be rewarded in Heaven.

Work Matters: So many people hate their jobs. It's a shame, because all our work matters to God when we do it to please him. Imagine how it could transform your purpose for working with excellence if you knew it really will make a difference in eternity. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance *from the Lord as a reward*. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism" (Colossians 3:23-25, author italics). Whatever we do with the motive of doing it well to please God, gets rewarded!

Finances Matter: "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked" (Luke 12:48).

He Loves to Reward: When we invest our resources in building God's kingdom, making his churches strong, feeding the poor, righting injustices, blessing others as an act of love toward him – he says it will be rewarded with true riches, true possessions, things that can never be taken from us. Imagine what those things might be, because you'll never outgive God. He loves to reward! But part of the reason people don't invest time, money, or service for the rewards to come is because they just can't picture it. Some people still fear that Heaven will be boring – or less fulfilling. When we get a clear picture of the cost/benefit of possibly sacrificing some earthly rewards to live for eternal ones, it's a no-brainer. The rewards to come are – excuse the put – out of this world!