

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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BIBLE REWARDS

Larry R. Ping II

The Bible speaks of many different rewards, offered for many varied reasons. Some rewards are good, while some are not so good. By definition, a reward is a “thing given in recognition of one’s service, effort, or achievement.” Consider for a few moments these rewards of the Bible.

1) REWARDS FOR SERVICE. In thinking about the well-being of the priests, Moses wrote, *“Therefore thou shalt say unto them, When ye have heaved the best thereof from it, then it shall be counted unto the Levites as the increase of the threshingfloor, and as the increase of the winepress. And ye shall eat it in every place, ye and your households: for it is your reward for your service in the tabernacle of the congregation”* (Num. 18:30-31). God was seeing to it these tabernacle workers had their needs met through this reward. On a number of occasions the Bible iterates *“The labourer is worthy of his reward”* (I Tim. 5:18; Lk. 10:7).

This concept was true of the twelve apostles to whom it was said, *“Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat”* (Matt. 10:9-10). It is true as well of those who preach the Gospel about whom it is said, *“Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel”* (I Cor. 9:14).

2) REWARDS FOR CARING FOR OTHERS. In the redemption story of Ruth, Boaz said to his soon-to-be-wife, *“It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore. The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to*

trust” (Ruth 2:11-12). God is well-pleased with those who show care and concern for others, as did Ruth for her mother-in-law Naomi. Paul reminded, *“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”* (I Tim. 6:18-19).

3) REWARDS FOR EVIL WORKS. As mentioned earlier, not all rewards are of the positive kind. It is said in II Sam. 3:39, *“the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness.”* If one’s effort is of the evil sort, God has rewards for such. Paul made mention of *“Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works”* (II Tim. 4:14). This is what the Roman writer had in mind while penning, *“For the wages of sin is death”* (Rom. 6:23). There is a reward for sin, of this the Bible is clear.

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4) REWARDS FOR WORK. The book of Job tells of *“the reward of his work”* (Job 7:2). This is speaking of an individual who is working, and has garnered wages as a result. Working hard brings with it many bonuses. Money, of course, to support a family and the less fortunate (Eph. 4:28). But also a feeling of satisfaction too! The preacher taught, *“Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion”* (Eccl. 5:18). In fact, the same preacher said, *“There is nothing better”* (Eccl. 2:24) than such a feeling!

5) REWARDS FOR MINDING GOD’S JUDGMENTS. The Psalmist revealed, *“the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping*

of them there is great reward” (Psa. 19:9-11). Whatever God has deemed to be right according to His judgments, must be kept. And God will see to it He rewards those who do! The wise man disclosed, *“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he”* (Prov. 29:18). The Lord said, *“Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it”* (Lk. 11:28). Near the end of the Bible Jesus expressed, *“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be”* (Rev. 22:12). Is He bringing one for you? For me?

6) REWARDS FOR PERSECUTION. In the beginning of the mountain sermon, the Lord said, *“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you”* (Matt. 5:11-12). Paul warned, *“Yea, and all that will*

live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (II Tim. 3:12). We do not wake up wishing for mistreatment, but if and when it comes our way, we shall be ready to accept it patiently. Peter instructed, *“Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf”* (I Pet. 4:16).

7) REWARDS FOR PLEASING MEN. Jesus warned when one does alms, prays, or fasts, not to do it to *“be seen of men”* (Matt. 6:5). Of these individuals seeking the glory of men, Jesus said, *“Verily I say unto you, They have their reward”* (Matt. 6:2,5,16). Often and sadly, preachers are guilty of this (sometimes with the help of some members suffering from preacheritis). Paul made it clear who he intended to please when he wrote to the Galatian brethren, *“For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ”* (Gal. 1:10). Let us all be sure we are striving to please God only!

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm