

Doctrine of Reward

1. The apostle John speaks of receiving a full reward for abiding in the doctrine of Christ.
 - *2 John 8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.*

2. The Greek term for “reward” is *misthos* (mis-thos) and refers to payment for services rendered. The image presented is that of a workman who has put in a full days labor and receives a full day’s pay for a job well done.

3. Whatever form the reward in heaven might be, the Lord will not be obligated to any person.

4. A reward is promised for the following.
 - There is a reward for those who are reviled and persecuted for the sake of Jesus. *Matthew 5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

 - There is a reward for those who perform God deeds in secret. *Matthew 6:18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.*

 - There is a reward for honoring those who honor Christ. *Matthew 10:41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.*

 - There is a reward for those that fear the Lord. *Revelation 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.*

5. There is no reward when certain behavior is engaged.
 - There is no reward in heaven for loving only those who love you. *Matthew 5:46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same?*

 - There is no reward in heaven when good deeds are performed before others in order to be seen by them. *Matthew 6:1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.*

6. When Jesus returns, every person shall be judged and rewarded according to his works.
- *Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.*
 - *Revelation 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*
7. Honest individuals know if they are being justly rewarded. As there is a reward of the just so there is a reward for the unjust.
- *The Wicked. 2 Peter 2:12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; 13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you.*
 - *Individuals in the Nation of Israel. Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. 2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;*
 - *The thief on the cross. Luke 23:39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.*
 - *Judas Iscariot received his just reward. Acts 1:18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.*
- Special Note.***
The reward of the unjust shall always be death, both physical and spiritual. They have earned it. *Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death...*
- *Alexander the Coppersmith. 2 Timothy 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:*
8. Salvation is not a reward for it is not a payment for services rendered. Salvation is the free gift of God's grace. The apostle Paul explains.

- *Romans 4:4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. 5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. 6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, 7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.*

9. If a Christian would be properly rewarded then he should engage in spiritual labor.

- *1 Corinthians 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.*

10. Labor for Christ must be done with the right spirit in order to be properly rewarded.

- *1 Corinthians 9:17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.*

11. Paul desired that his reward for preaching the gospel be that it be free of charge.

- *KJV. 1 Corinthians 9:18 What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.*
- *Amplified Bible. 1 Corinthians 9:18 What then is the [actual] reward that I get? Just this: that in my preaching the good news (the Gospel), I may offer it [absolutely] free of expense [to anybody], not taking advantage of my rights and privileges [as a preacher] of the Gospel.*

12. The Christian should take preventive action that spiritual rewards are not taken away through false doctrine.

- *KJV. Colossians 2:18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,*
- *Amplified Bible. Colossians 2:18 Let no one defraud you by acting as an umpire and declaring you unworthy and disqualifying you for the prize, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions [he claims] he has seen, vainly puffed up by his sensuous notions and inflated by his unspiritual thoughts and fleshly conceit, 19 And not holding fast to the Head, from Whom the entire body, supplied and knit together by means of its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.*

13. Those who labor in the Lord in the work of the ministry are worthy of their reward of financial remuneration.

- *1 Timothy 5:18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.*

14. The hope of the Christian contains a great reward.

- *Hebrews 10:35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.*

15. Moses had respect for the reward he believed he would one day receive.

- *Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.*