



## The Rewards Of The Faithful

- The strong need to encourage the weak
- Even among the strong, there are degrees of faithfulness
  - Matthew 13:18-23 – “some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty”
- The faithful must have a reason for their faith
  - 1 Peter 3:15-16 – “a reason concerning the hope”

## Are Rewards Promised?

- 25 uses of the English word “reward” in the New Testament
  - “Reward” is translated from four Greek words used about 74 times in the New Testament
- μισθος (misthos) – 21 of the 25 occurrences of “reward” are from this word
  - Strong – “pay for services (literally or figuratively), <whether> good or bad”
  - Matthew 16:27 – “according to his deeds”
  - Isaiah 3:10 – “fruit of their doings”

## Should we be seeking rewards?

- **Apostles were concerned – Jesus was understanding**
  - Matthew 19:27-30 – “what then shall we have? ... inherit eternal life”
  - Matthew 6:33 – “seek ye first”
- **Desire can be wrong and evil**
  - James 4:1-4 – “ye ask amiss ... spend it in your pleasures”

## Understanding rewards

- Who will give rewards? – two categories
- **Rewards given by men**
  - Not necessarily to be desired
  - Matthew 6:2, 5, 16 – “glory of men ... seen of men”
  - Acts 1:18 – “reward of his iniquity”
- **Rewards given by God**
  - They are to be desired
  - Matthew 6:1 – “reward with your Father”
  - Revelation 22:12 – “reward is with me”
  - Hebrews 11:6 – “he is a rewarder”

## Who will receive rewards?

- **From men**
  - **Those they want to honor**
    - See again – Matthew 6:2, 5, 16 – “glory of men ... seen of men”
  - **Those they want to punish**
    - Luke 23:39-41 – “we receive the due reward of our deeds”

### Who will receive rewards?

- **From God**
  - **Those who love all**
    - Mark 9:41 – “give you a cup of water”
    - Luke 6:35-36 – “love your enemies ... Be ye merciful”
  - **Those who work in the Kingdom of God**
    - I Corinthians 3:7-9 – “fellow-workers”
    - I Timothy 5:18 – “worthy of his hire”
    - II John 6-8 – “receive a full reward”

### Why will God give rewards?

- **Because it has been promised**
  - Hebrews 2:2 – “recompense of reward” [for evil]
  - Hebrews 10:34-36 – “recompense of reward” [for good]
  - Hebrews 11:24-27 – “recompense of reward” [for good]

### What will the rewards be?

- Mark 10:28-30 – “in this time ... in the world to come”
- **In this life**
  - Matthew 12:46-50 – “he is my brother, and sister, and mother”
  - II Peter 1:1 – “a like precious faith with us”
  - Acts 4:32 – “they had all things common”
- **In that to follow**
  - John 5:24 – “eternal life”
  - John 6:40 – “eternal life”
  - John 10:28 – “eternal life”
  - Romans 2:5-7 – “eternal life”

### “What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- **Hear the Word of God**
  - Romans 10:8 – *“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach”*
- **Believe in that Word**
  - Romans 10:11 – *“For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be put to shame.”*

### “What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- **Repent of your sins**
  - Acts 3:19 – *“Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord”*
- **Confess that Jesus is the Son of God**
  - I John 4:15 – *“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God abideth in him, and he in God.”*

### “What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- **Be immersed in water (baptized)**
  - Acts 2:38 – *“And Peter (said) unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*