

## **Overcoming Temptation (Eternal Rewards – Part 1 of 2)**

(appropriate for Mid Schoolers and older)

Michael R. Daily, November 2020

Other youth bible studies by Michael Daily available at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

Please also see, "Five Eternal Crowns (Eternal Rewards – Part 2 of 2) at: <http://gciweb.org/2011/04/youth-bible-study-materials-michael-r-daily/>

How many of you like promises from God? Turn to **II Timothy 3:12** for a promise from God.

### **II Timothy 3:12**

**"And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted".**

God promises that if we try to live a godly life we will be persecuted. The word "persecute" means, "To harass with cruel or oppressive treatment"

What are some ways people are persecuted in mid-school or high school? (list what they say on the board).

(put the word used in the Bible next to each thing they mentioned and read them the definition of the words)

- Ostracize** – "To shut out or exclude someone from a group". The group decides how you are supposed to dress, wear your hair, act. If you don't do it their way you will be ostracized.
- Mock** – "To hold someone up to ridicule"
- Scoff** – "To speak about someone with contempt, to deride"
- Reville** – "To assail with abusive language" (cuss someone out)
- Scorn** – "A feeling of contempt for someone deemed inferior". Has anyone tried to make you feel inferior – of course they have – it has happened to all of us.
- Spurn** – "To reject someone with disdain or contempt, to kick, trample, or push".

Girls, have you seen how some of the high school girls dress? But you are going to dress like a Godly woman – right? Now when you do eventually these other girls are going to want to know why you dress like that. Is there something wrong with you? Do you think you are better than us?

Boys, if you don't cuss eventually the other boys are going to notice and are going to ask you, How come you don't cuss? Are you're a girlie – boy or something?

Now when these persecutions come what are you going to do? How are you going to handle it because its coming.

Now I am going to ask you some questions and you answer. You are a Christian, right? You're going to heaven when you die, no matter what, right? and God loves you, right? and nothing you could do for God would ever make him love you more than he already does, right? In fact there is no sin you could ever commit that he would not forgive and let you into heaven, right?

Since all that is true it seems to me that the smart thing to do is – now this is just between us this doesn't leave this room – but it seems to me that the smart thing to do is to go along with everyone else and do things their way – that way you can avoid the persecution and you still get God's love and heaven so you have not missed out on anything, right? Am I right? Raise your hand if you think that's right - raise your hand if you think that's wrong – raise your hand if you are not sure.

Now if I was a fallen angel Satan might pin a medal on my chest tonight because I just deceived a number of you because what I just told you was a lie – in fact everything I told you was true except for the very last thing – that you won't miss out on anything. The truth is that if you followed that advice you would be missing out on something very valuable. That is what we will be talking about tonight.

When the persecutions come, what are you going to do?

### Luke 6:22,23,35

"Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>"Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets.

<sup>35</sup>"But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.

Leap for joy for our reward in heaven is great. You probably won't feel like leaping for joy – but it is true.

### Hebrews 11:24-26

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, <sup>25</sup> choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, <sup>26</sup> considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

In Moses time, Egypt was the most powerful nation on Earth. Pharaoh was the richest man in the world and he controlled the most powerful military in the world. Moses was essentially the adopted son of Pharaoh. So when Pharaoh died Moses would have inherited a big chunk of all of that. But he gave it all up to go take care of sheep in the desert for 60 years and march rebellious people around in the desert for 40 more years until all the adults died, including himself. What was his motivation? He was looking to the reward he would receive.

### Revelation 22:12-13

"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. <sup>13</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Jesus is coming – what is he bringing with him? Your reward.

### I Corinthians 3:8-15

Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. <sup>9</sup> For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. <sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. <sup>11</sup> For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. <sup>14</sup> If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

This is a description of the fire of purification that each Christian will go through before we enter heaven. According to verse 11 what is the foundation? Christ. How will the fire affect the foundation? It won't. Its like concrete. The foundation – our salvation in Christ – is not affected by the fire of purification – our salvation is secure. How does God describe our work that was done out of love for Him and in faith? As Gold, Silver, and Precious Stones. How will the fire affect these? It won't. These things will come through the fire. How does God describe the things we gave our time, money, and energy to that were not for Him or His will? Wood, Hay, and Straw. How will the fire affect these things? They will be burned up. Whatever passes through the fire and remains are the things God promises to reward us for.

We don't know exactly what these rewards are but we know they are of immense value in the economy of eternity. We live on planet Earth. Its much better to live on planet Earth than it would be to try to live on planet Mercury (Mercury has no atmosphere, is 800F during the day and -280F at night). Just as living on Earth is better than living on Mercury, living in heaven is better than living in hell. Nevertheless, how would your experience of life on the Earth change if a large dump truck dumped a huge pile of gold on your driveway? That gold would dramatically change your experience of life on Earth compared to someone who did not have that gold. In the same way the eternal rewards we receive in heaven will have enormous value in the economy of eternity. When we see our reward we will be very glad we made the sacrifices we did on Earth to obey God.

So, what is it God rewards? The quality of our work. What is it that is conspicuous by its absence that God does not reward? God does not reward the quantity of our work. He rewards the quality of our work. Why is that? Because quantity is a function of our design. For example, no matter how much faith I have, no matter how much I pray, no matter how hard I try, no matter how pure my life is – I will never lead as many people to Christ as Billy Graham. Why? Because he was designed to be a mass evangelist and I was not. Why? Because God knows that most people will not respond to mass evangelism but they will respond to a friend sharing the gospel with them, one on one. So God has designed a small number of mass evangelists but he has designed millions of Christians to have a quantity of “one” (one at a time) when it comes to evangelism. The same thing is true with pastoring or making disciples or any of the other ministries.

The good news here is that God rewards our faith, our effort, and the quality of our work – did we really do the best job we could? Did we give it everything we have? If so our reward will be just as great as the mass evangelist or the pastor of the megachurch who also did their very best.

**Preparing for the Judgment Seat of Christ**

**II Corinthians 5:9-10**

**Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**

In verse 10 what does the word “recompense” mean? It means, “to be compensated” – in other words to be paid in exchange for something. The Judgment Seat of Christ will be a time when God will determine what compensation he wants to give us for our deeds in the body. But the judgment will be very different for the Christian and the non-christian

(At this point draw two graphs on the board, one for the Christian and one for the nonchristian. Each graph has a vertical line on the left side with a horizontal line bisecting the vertical section into a top and bottom half. Draw a rough sine wave that crosses back and forth from the top of the horizontal line to the bottom and back.



The top sections represent the times you obeyed God in Faith (Gold, Silver, Precious Stones). The bottom sections represent times of disobedience and sin (Wood, Hay, Straw). Now lets see how the judgment process works for each. First, the Christian.

**Romans 8:1**

**Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**

**Romans 4: 7-8**

**"BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED. <sup>8</sup>BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT."**

**Psalm 103:10-12**

**He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. <sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. <sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.**

**Hebrews 6:10**

**For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.**

Based on these verses the blood of Christ has wiped clean our sins. How does this change the graph for the Christian? We can erase the bottom sections on the graph. God has said that for the Christian there will be no words of condemnation, our sins will be forgiven and covered, God will not take into account our sins, He will not deal with us according to our sins, He will not reward us according to our sins, He will remove our sins from us and remember them no more, and He will not forget our work.

Now let's look at the non-christian.

**Isaiah 64: 6**

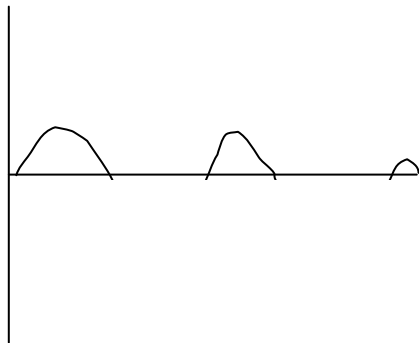
**For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.**

**John 3:18**

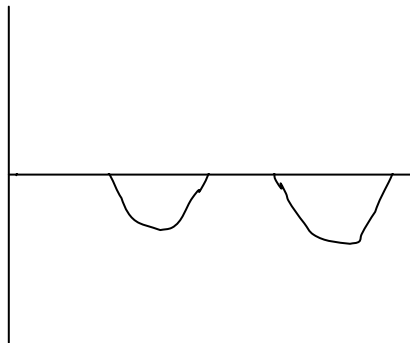
**"He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

Based on this we know that the righteous deeds of those without Christ have the value of filthy rags and are worthless so we can erase the top sections on the Non-Christian's graph. The graphs now look like this:

Christian



Non-Christian



Now we are ready to stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ and be recompensed for our deeds in the body, whether good or bad.

**Experiencing the Judgment (non-christian)**

For the nonchristian the process is more of a legal action. As you approach the Judgment Seat of Christ an angel appears and stops you. The angel places a book on a podium, opens it and says, "You are standing before Almighty God, a God of Holiness, Righteousness, and Purity. No sin may stand in His presence. Let the judgment begin". As the angel traces from the beginning of your life he quickly hits a bottom section at which time the process stops. He announces: "You have sinned against Almighty God, violating his statutes and ordinances. You are hereby sentenced to eternity in the fires of Hell". (Gavel hits). "Next case".

That's it – the judgment is over.

### **Experiencing the Judgment (Christian)**

For the Christian the Judgment Seat of Christ is a very different experience. As you approach the Judgment Seat of Christ, God comes down from His throne and runs toward you with a big smile on His face. (pick a name of one of the kids and look at them). “Johnny’s here! My son Johnny’s here. Johnny, we have all been waiting for you. It so good to have you home. Hey, are you ready to do the Judgment thing? Let’s do the Judgment thing – it’ll be fun!”

As God traces through our lives He reminds us of the things we did for Him (some we had forgotten about). “Remember when you were little, your Mom taught Sunday School class and you were her little helper? You were so cute back then!” As God comes across a blank spot He says, “We’ll, I’m not sure what happened there”. Coming to the next positive event God says, “Oh, but this was a good one. Remember when you were a teenager and you used to wear those Christian T-shirts everywhere you went – I really liked that. By the way, when we are done with the Judgment I’ll show you the rewards we put in your account for doing these things”. Coming across another blank spot God says, “Not sure what happened there”. Coming to another positive event God says, “Now this one is my favorite! Remember when you were sharing the Gospel with your friends? I think this one is my favorite, don’t you think so Gabriel?” “Oh, yes sir, as you recall, sir, I personally worked that mission”. “Yes, you did”.

And that is what the Judgment Seat of Christ will be like for Christians.

### **Conclusion**

God has promised to reward us in eternity for our service on Earth. No sacrifice we make here will we regret in Heaven. God will reward us for the quality of our work and for those things done out of love for Him and faith in Him.

**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

***JEREMIAH 15:16***

**THEME: *Overcoming Temptation (Eternal Rewards – short version)***

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Timothy 3:12, Luke 6:22-23, 35***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

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