

## OUR HEAVENLY REWARDS

### 1 Corinthians 3:9-15

INTRODUCTION: Hollywood constantly awards itself for all its work. It doesn't seem fair sometimes because other professions don't have award ceremonies like movie makers do. The truth is that the awards this world gives have little lasting value. Our chief concern in this world should not be the praise of men but the praise of our God: Romans 13:7. What really counts for eternity are the awards that will be given out in heaven.

#### I. ARE HEAVENLY REWARDS SCRIPTURAL?

The early believers were motivated to serve God because they believed His promise of reward for faithful service found in His Word. Ruth 2:12; 2 Chronicles 15:7; Psalm 58:11; Jeremiah 31:16; Matthew 5:11-12; Matthew 16:27; Mark 9:41; Colossians 2:18-19; Revelations 22:12. Many times the word reward is not in the verses but the idea is there nonetheless: Hebrews 6:10-11; Mark 10:29-30. I don't know about you but I have found no place on earth where I can get a 100 fold return on my investment. However when we chose to serve the Lord He promises to bless us in this life and in the life to come! As the seven years of the Tribulation are taking place on the earth, we will be in heaven at the Judgment Seat of Christ: Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:7-10; Ephesians 6:5-8; 1 Corinthians 3:9-15. This is a judgment for our works not our salvation: Romans 8:1-2; Hebrews 10:10; Ephesians 2:8-10.

#### II. THE DESCRIPTION OF HEAVEN'S REWARDS!

There are at least five different rewards given out in heaven for different types of good works we can do for our Lord's glory. 1. The Victor's Crown: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. The Olympic Games and the Isthmian Games were played very near Corinth and Paul's readers knew what he was talking about. Titus 2:11-13. 2. The Crown of Rejoicing or the Soul Winners Crown: 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 1 Corinthians 3:6-9. We all need to be busy sharing the good news of the Gospel with others! 3. The Crown of Righteousness: 2 Timothy 4:6-8: Do you have a longing for the Lord Jesus' return? 4. The Crown of Life: James 1:12; Revelations 2:10. The Crown of Life is given to those who endure temptations and trials even to the point of martyrdom. 2 Timothy 3:12. 5. The Crown of Glory: 1 Peter 5:1-4. This crown is for Christian leaders and shepherds of God's people.

#### III. THE GREATEST REWARD OF ALL!

Our rewards in heaven dare not be our primary motivator for our service to our Lord. All these rewards would once again be of very little value without our greatest reward: The Lord Himself! Genesis 15:1: yes the Lord had planned many blessings for Abraham but none of those blessings compared with the blessing of knowing God and being with Him for all eternity! The Lord Himself is our exceedingly great reward! Revelations 4:10-11: we will give our rewards to our Lord and praise Him for having used us on this earth to bring Him glory!