

Sunday, October 3, 2021—Colossians 3:24-25 The Reward of the Inheritance

### Colossians 3:24

- **Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.**
- **Knowing**—based upon the context the believer is aware of the Paul’s imperative commands to the body of Christ. I have taken great care in highlighting all of them knowing that we would eventually reach verse 24. There are 15 imperative commands that precede verse 24.
  - Col. 3:1—“**seek** those things were are above”
  - Col. 3:2—“**set** your affection on things above”
  - Col. 3:5—“**mortify** therefore your members which are upon the earth”
  - Col. 3:8—“**put off** all these”
    - Anger
    - Wrath
    - Malice
    - Blasphemy
    - Filthy communication out of your mouth
  - Col. 3:9—“**lie not** one to another”
  - Col. 3:12—“**put on** therefore as the elect of God”
    - Bowels of Mercies (v. 12)
    - Kindness (v. 12)
    - Humbleness of Mind (v. 12)
    - Meekness (v. 12)
    - Longsuffering (v. 12)
    - Forbearing one another (v. 13)

- Forgiving one another (v. 13)
    - Charity (v. 14)
  - Col. 3:15—“**let** the peace of God rule in your hearts”
  - Col. 3:15—“**be ye** thankful”
  - Col. 3:16—“**let** the word of Christ dwell in you richly”
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  - Col. 3:18—“Wives, **submit** yourselves to your own husbands”
  - Col. 3:19—“Husbands, **love** your wives”
  - Col. 3:20—“Children **obey** your parents in all things”
  - Col. 3:21—“Fathers **provoke not** your children to anger”
  - Col. 3:22—“Servants, **obey** in all things your masters”
  - Col. 3:23—“**do it** heartily, as the Lord, and not unto men;”
- The entire context of verse 24 is dealing with proper living under grace as a member of the body of Christ not suffering. In fact, suffering is not mentioned anywhere in chapter 3. Whatsoever a believer does in discharging their domestic responsibilities needs to be done “heartily, as to the Lord” in verse 23 because we know in verse 24, we shall receive of the Lord the reward of the inheritance.
  - Colossians 3:24—every believer shall “receive the reward of the inheritance.” Mark well what this verse says and what it does not say. It does not say that the inheritance is the reward. Rather it says “the reward of the inheritance.”
  - According to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* the English preposition “of” means: “from or out of; proceeding from, as the cause, source, mans, author or agent bestowing.”
  - In other words, whatever reward a believer gets is out of the inheritance thereby indicating that they are two different things. The believer’s inheritance is secure whereas his reward is yet to be determined.
    - Romans 8:17
    - Ephesians 1:11, 14

- Titus 3:5-7—it's on account of our justification by grace that one is made an heir according to the hope of eternal life.
- Acts 20:32
  - I Corinthians 1:2, 6:11—even the carnal Corinthians are sanctified in Christ Jesus and are therefore heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.
- There is a difference between inheritance and reward. In earthly terms, an inheritance is received based upon two factors: 1) who your parents are, 2) their wealth not what you do. Rewards are handed out anyone meeting the conditions or requirements regardless of who your parents are.
  - Inheritance—an estate derived from an ancestor to an heir by succession or in course of law; or an estate which the law casts on a child or other person, as the representative of the deceased ancestor. 1) The reception of an estate by hereditary right, or the descent by which an estate or title is cast on the heir; as, the heir received the estate by inheritance. 2) The estate or possession which may descend to an heir, though it has not descended. (*American Dictionary of the English Language*)
  - Reward—to give in return, either good or evil. Hence, when good is returned for good, reward signifies to repay, to recompense, to compensate. When evil or suffering is return for injury or wickedness, reward signifies to punish with just retribution, to take vengeance on, according to the nature of the case. (*American Dictionary of the English Language*)
- Please note that there is a positive and negative aspect to reward. Consider the following scriptural breakdown of the definition for the English word “reward” from the *American Dictionary of the English Language*.
- “To give in return, either good or evil”
  - Ephesians 6:8; Colossians 3:25—both good and bad things done in the body will be rewarded.
- “Hence, when good is returned for good, reward signifies to repay, to recompense, to compensate.”
  - Galatians 6:7-9—a man reaps what he sows.
  - I Corinthians 3:8, I Timothy 5:18—reward is simply payment or recompense for a man’s labor.
  - Titus 3:14, Colossians 1:10—a believer’s good works are fruit for which they will receive a reward.

- “When evil or suffering is returned for injury or wickedness, reward signifies to punish with just retribution, to take vengeance on, according to the nature of the case.”
  - II Timothy 4:14—reward is given for bad works.
- II Corinthians 5:10—at the JSC believers “receive the things done in the body . . . whether it be good or bad.”
- I Corinthians 3:14-15—there are only two possible outcomes for believers at the JSC in I Corinthians 3.
  - Loss of Reward
  - Reward Bestowed
- I Corinthians 3:13—remember the trial by fire at the JSC manifest, declares, and reveals the “sort” of a man’s work.
- I Corinthians 3:15—suffering loss of reward at the JSC is representative of the negative aspect of reward based upon the definition presented above. Improper workmanship in building upon the foundation laid by Paul (v. 10) is **rewarded** by being denied or losing reward. In other words, suffering the loss of reward at the JSC is the reward for failing to build properly upon Paul’s foundation.
- Depriving a believer of their reward at the JSC for his or her poor workmanship is the only outcome that is consistent with the Pauline message of grace.
- Romans 5:1—justified members of the body of Christ already have peace with God. The offended justice of God against our sin has already been settled when we trusted the finished work of Christ as the only payment for our sin. One does not even appear before the JSC unless they have trusted the gospel of the grace of God. It would be inconsistent with the justice of God to punish believers for sins that he had already forgiven.
- The problem of sin for a believer is not that he must bear its penalty. It is that it is by definition poor workmanship. Always remember that the JSC is about determining the “sort” of the believer’s workmanship in building upon the foundation of Christ.
- Therefore, **rewarding** a believer’s poor workmanship with **no reward** is consistent with the principles of grace. The JSC is about determining each believer’s accumulated service capacity so that they can be stationed properly in the heavenly government.
- Always remember: What we do in life echoes in eternity.