

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

This is Amazing Grace, For All You've Done, All Creatures of Our God and King, Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me, Crown Him (Majesty)

WELCOME

What do you imagine heaven to be like? What do you think are we going to do in heaven?

WORD

LUKE 14:12-14

And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. ¹³ But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

A lot of Christians don't have an idea of what we are actually going to do in heaven. When Jesus healed a sick man on a Sabbath in John 5, we see a glimpse of what is happening in heaven. In verse 17 it says, "But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working." There is work in heaven! But how do we prepare for this? Could it be that our eternity in heaven is greatly affected by the decisions we are making here on earth now?

In **Luke 14:12-14**, Jesus told the host of the banquet not to invite those who can repay him but rather to invite the poor, the lame, and the blind who have no means of repaying him. For if he does this, he will be blessed and repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

What is Jesus revealing here? If we help the poor, the needy, and the hungry, we will be blessed not now, but in the future – at the time of resurrection. There is a connection between what we do on earth and what happens after we are resurrected and are in heaven. God will repay us for whatever we do for Him.

In **Matthew 6:19-21**, Jesus tells us not to store for ourselves treasures on earth but rather to lay up treasures in heaven. There is personal ownership in heaven.

In **Matthew 5:11-12a**, Jesus says, "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great;

If we are being persecuted because of Christ, we are blessed and we should rejoice and be exceedingly glad! Why? For **great** is our reward in **heaven**. God did not promise the reward here on earth. The Greek word used

for "reward" in this passage is *misthos* meaning wages or payment for work. It is not a gift for we have to work to earn it.

Proverbs 19:17 says, "One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed." Helping the poor is like having a bank in heaven! God is the supplier of everything and He wants us to partner with Him to bring help to the people around us. He will repay us in heaven.

We either earn the rewards or we don't have them. If we don't lay up treasures in heaven while we're alive, we will not have them when we get there. This is why Paul instructed the rich in **1 Timothy 6:17-19** to be rich in good works, *storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future*.

There are two eternal judgments:

JUDGMENT FOR SIN

It is clear in Scripture that we are not going to heaven because of our good works (**Ephesians 2:8-10**). All of us have a sin problem that we have to deal with. We are saved by grace through faith and we are going to heaven because of the finished work of Jesus on the cross who died and paid for our sins. He is offering this to anyone as a **free gift**. Anyone who does not accept this will be judged for their sin and spend eternity in hell.

JUDGMENT FOR WORKS

Rewards in heaven are given for the works that we do that further the kingdom of God on earth. Christ does not owe us anything (because in fact, we owe everything to Him) but He desires to reward His children for the good works they have done on earth for His glory.

WORD (cont'd)

Romans 14:10-12 says that each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. The day will come when we will be called by name to stand before Jesus. Believers in Jesus will be judged according to what we did, not in order to go to heaven (i.e., not for salvation), but to give an account for the choices we made here on earth as God's children.

2 Corinthians 5:9-11a tells us that 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*. Christ-committed followers will not be judged for their sins (which have already been judged and paid for on the cross on our

behalf, by our Savior) but for our service for Christ. We are accountable for what we do. Our works will be tested by fire, made public before everybody (**1 Corinthians 3:13-15**). If we wasted our lives, we will suffer loss.

Revelation 22:12-13 says that our reward is with Jesus in heaven. If we are wise, we will work with God with all of our hearts so we may please Him with all of our lives.

How will you live your life here on earth? We only have one life to live so remember that only what's done for Christ will last. Let us run the race and run for the finish line. After Christ himself, the best reward is when Jesus says, "Well done, good and faithful servant!".

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. If you stood before the judgment seat of Christ today, how much of your works do you think will be rewarded?
2. Take turns reading the Bible verses about eternal rewards again. How should these motivate you?
3. In what ways will you store treasures in heaven? Share specific action points with your group.

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Store up treasures in heaven! Continue to pray, care, and share. Look for opportunities to share your faith and if you encounter persecution, rejoice and be glad for great is your reward in heaven!

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
- A God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends