

Deeper Life Notes

“Treasured by God - The Gift of Rewards” 1 Peter 3:8-14a

Pastor Dan Osborn—Sunday, February 12, 2017



Watertown
Evangelical
Free Church

Discuss

What comes to mind when you hear the word “reward”?

We sometimes speak of the various relationships in our lives (with a spouse, friend, co-worker, even an enemy!) as “rewarding.” What rewards come from the relationships in your life?

What rewards come from living for the Lord? And what helps you to live for Him?

Review - 1 Peter 1:1-3:7

1 Peter is a letter written to believers - to God’s “elect exiles” living by faith in different places, places where their Christian faith is being challenged. In chapters 1-2, Peter reminds them (and us!) of their faith and their place in God’s new covenant people, as well as God’s call on their lives to be holy. Starting in 2:13, then, Peter addresses various groups of people about what it looks like for them to live for the Lord in trying circumstances. Then, in 3:8, he addresses everyone...

Pray

“Blessed are those who keep His statutes and seek Him with their whole heart.”

Psalm 119:2

Read

1 Peter 3:8-14a

What does Peter say is the motivation or purpose for following these commands (v.9)?

In other words, what are the rewards of growing in our relationship with God (2:2)?

Looking back to what the Lord has done for us is motivating (2 Corinthians 5:14-15), but so is looking ahead to what He promises those who live for Him (2 Corinthians 5:10). We are motivated to live for the Lord in the present by looking to both the past and the future! Pastor Dan points to two truths about the present and future **blessing** of living for the Lord - the **rewards** of blessing others, even when they mistreat us:

A. Rewards are not inconsistent with the _____.

1. The tension... What is the relationship between our faith and our works?

2. The gospel
 - a. Mercy
 - b. New life
 - c. Absolute assurance (solid, _____, secure)
 - d. A certain way of life... (normative, necessary, _____)

B. Rewards are the _____ of the believer's inheritance.

- Both individually & corporately!
- They are normative, necessary & conditional!

Biblical “Investment Opportunities”

In *Unlocking the Bible Story* (Vol. 4, chp 13), Pastor Colin Smith identifies 10 specific things that the Lord will reward his people for doing:

1. Praying & Fasting — Matthew 6:6, 18
2. Having compassion for the vulnerable — Matthew 25:34-40
3. Bearing insults & being excluded — Luke 6:22-23
4. Loving your enemies — Luke 6:35
5. Giving generously — Luke 6:38
6. Hospitality that cannot be repaid — Luke 14:12-14
7. Enduring pressures in ministry — 2 Corinthians 4:17-18
8. Performing quality work for your employer — Colossians 3:23-24
9. Keeping faith through trials — 1 Peter 1:6-7
10. Being faithful to the truth — 2 John 1:7-8

Read

Look up the Scripture references for each “biblical investment opportunity” above. Which one(s) are you doing well? Which one will you commit to improving upon?

***Share your answer with someone who can keep you accountable! (Proverbs 27:17)*

Answers to fill-in-the-blanks: A. gospel, A.2.c) safe, A.2.d) conditional, B. fruit