

# HEAVENLY REWARDS — LIVING WITH ETERNITY IN MIND

## We Are Told to Focus on Heavenly Treasure

**Revelation 3:18** — Jesus counsels us to **buy gold from Him**. True riches are spiritual, not earthly.

**Matthew 6:19–21** — Do not store up treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and thieves steal. Instead, **store up treasures in heaven**. What do moths do? Rust?

**John 10:10** — The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy; Jesus came that we may have **life abundantly**.

**Luke 12:31–34** — Seek the **Kingdom of God**. Make treasure in heaven your priority.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**KEY:** If our thoughts and priorities are centered on eternal treasure, **our hearts will follow**.

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## Set Your Mind on Heavenly Things

**Colossians 3:1–2** — “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

**1 Corinthians 4:16–18** — Do not focus on the things that are seen and temporary, but on the unseen things that are eternal. Our present affliction is working for us an **eternal weight of glory**.

**Hebrews 12:2** — Jesus endured the cross “**for the joy that was set before Him**.”

Jesus could see beyond His present suffering to what was ahead.

**1 Corinthians 9:24–27** — Run the race **to obtain the prize**. Paul tells us to live with purpose and discipline because we are pursuing an **imperishable reward**. Train yourself to be the most productive you can.

### Run to Win

**Philippians 3:12–15** — Paul didn't simply want to finish the race. He **pressed toward the goal for the prize**.

His mindset was: He wanted to win it!

**Press on → Reach forward → Pursue the goal → Win the prize**

**2 John 8** — Be careful that you do not lose what you've worked for, but instead **receive a full reward**. We want the full reward.

**KEY:** Scripture doesn't teach us to be indifferent toward eternal rewards. It repeatedly tells us to **live intentionally for them**. Have you been indifferent or intentional? Ask yourself.

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# GOD KEEPS AN ACCOUNT

There is an **accounting in heaven**.

**Revelation 22:12** — Jesus says:

“My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”

**Philippians 4:17** — Paul speaks of spiritual fruit that “**abounds to your account**.”

Our actions on earth can produce **eternal fruit credited to us in heaven**.

**Hebrews 6:9–12** — God is not unjust; **He will not forget our work and labor of love**.

God keeps the ledger. **He doesn't forget. Be like the great ones.**

**Revelation 3:11** — “Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.” Don’t lose your rewards. We pay attention to our bank accounts, how about this account?

Keep the eternal account in mind.

If we remembered that what we do for God's Kingdom has eternal significance, would it change:

- How generously we give?
  - How faithfully we serve?
  - How we use our time?
  - How we respond when we're tired?
  - What we consider truly valuable?
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## THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

### Each Believer Will Be Rewarded

**2 Corinthians 5:9–11** — We will appear before the judgment seat of Christ and receive according to what we have done.

**1 Corinthians 3:5–15** — Our work will be tested.

Some work will **remain and receive reward**; other work will be **burned up and result in loss of reward**.

This passage distinguishes **salvation** from **reward**:

A person's work may be lost, “but he himself will be saved.”

## Remember the Laodiceans

### Revelation 3:15–19

They thought they were doing well because they evaluated themselves according to **earthly standards**.

Jesus saw their true spiritual condition completely differently. They were shown their account.

**Lesson:** Don't evaluate your life only by what is visible or successful on earth. Learn to see your life from an **eternal perspective**.

## God Examines the Heart

**1 Corinthians 4:5** — The Lord will reveal the hidden things and **motives of the heart**. Then each one's praise will come from God.

It isn't simply **what we did**, but **why we did it**.

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## THE BIG PICTURE

If we keep our minds on **spiritual and heavenly things**, we become more purposeful about how we live on earth.

Remembering that there is an eternal accounting can change ordinary decisions:

When I'm tired → I still serve faithfully.

When giving isn't comfortable → I remember eternal treasure.

When no one notices → I remember God does.

When earthly success looks appealing → I remember what lasts.

The progression:

Set your mind on things above

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Your heart follows your treasure

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Run your race intentionally

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God remembers your faithfulness

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Your work is tested by Christ

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What has eternal value receives reward

**Bottom line:**

We aren't working **for salvation**—salvation is through Christ. But Scripture gives believers a very real reason to live purposefully after salvation:

How we live this life matters in eternity.