

Reward!

1Corinthians 3:4-15

Introduction:

A. Monetary things

1. They will not l_____
2. We work h_____ to obtain them

B. Spiritual things

1. Last f_____
2. We should work even h_____ for these

C. 1Corinthians 3 indicates that believers will get spiritual r_____ for the spiritual work they have done.

1. Spiritual things include anything that involves God's a_____ (see vv.5-9)
2. Are you focusing on spiritual things?
3. What is going to be the outcome of all our deeds?

God will b_____ up your successes

but will b_____ up your failures (12-15)

A. All our works, good or bad, will be t_____ by fire (v. 13) - Paul is using the ancient practice of heating up a furnace to purify m_____ and precious stones in order to illustrate that:

1. All our b_____ deeds will be burned up.
2. All our g_____ deeds will be revealed.

B. It is anti-biblical to think that God will shame us on judgment day for our failures (e.g. failure to witness to someone)

1. God is the one that s_____ and He will save people from every tribe, language, nation, and class (Rev 5:9,10; 7:9,10).
2. God will not allow anyone He plans to save to p_____ (2 Pet 3:9).
3. If you refuse to be used by God to save someone, the reward (crown) intended for you will go to someone else (Rev 3:11 – *see to it that no one receives your crown*; the Greek word can be translated as take or receive. The context demands it to be translated “receive.”)

4. The New Covenant promises that God will forgive _____ our sins and will not be remembered by Him (Jer 31:34; Heb 10:17).
- C. Grab all opportunities given you to make a spiritual difference (e.g. witnessing, helping others, encouraging, showing Christ-like love).
1. Don't make an earthly reward a condition for serving God (e.g. monetary, personal recognition, etc) even though you may receive such – if you do, you will c_____ in order to get earthly rewards.
 2. Expect a future, eternal reward for all your services to God – if you do, you will e_____ do what God wants without compromise.

God will reward you for q_____ not q_____ (13b)

- A. Will people who influence 1000 people for Christ receive a greater reward than a person who influenced only one? – quantity is not the issue when it comes to eternal rewards, q_____ is.
1. Luke 23:40-42 – God gave the thief ONE opportunity to stand for Christ.
 2. God may give some m_____ opportunities than another, but this does not impact the degree of the reward.
- B. There are countless numbers of kinds of spiritual deeds (witnessing, encouraging, helping, teaching, leading, hospitality...) – all are e_____ important in His kingdom work.
- C. How do we focus on quality and not quantity? – Put God at the c_____ of everything you do.
1. Your marriage
 2. Your job
 3. Your giving
 4. Your life

Conclusion – what will be the reward?

- A. Many ideas have been proposed but these are all s_____. We must base our ideas on what God has revealed in His word.
- B. See 1Cor 2:9 – so stay in the middle of God's will!