Your Reward in Heaven

Jesus said "Great is your reward in heaven" (Matthew 5:12). Heaven is a reward and you can have it!

What is it about heaven that makes it such a great reward? Why should we all want to go there? First, heaven is for everyone if they will obey. Jesus said that <u>all</u> may come to him (Matthew 11:28) and John wrote that <u>whosoever</u> will, may come (Revelation 22:17).

Second, heaven is forever! It is <u>eternal</u> and <u>everlasting</u> life (Matthew 25:46; Romans 2:7) and it will <u>never</u> fade away (1 Peter 1:4).

Third, heaven is built by God! It is prepared <u>by Jesus (John 14:1-3)</u> and it is a city built <u>by God (Hebrews 11:10, 16)</u>.

Fourth, heaven is out of this world! Heaven will <u>not</u> be on a restored earth. It is not of this world. It is a place of heavenly rest (Hebrew 4:9-11; Revelation 14:13). It is a heavenly country (Hebrews 11:16), a new heaven/earth (2 Peter 3:13), a heavenly home with a heavenly body (2 Corinthians 5:1-8), and a heavenly kingdom (2 Timothy 4:18).

Yes, great is your reward in heaven! Heaven is for everyone, heaven is forever, heaven is built by God, and heaven is out of this world. Let's all live in obedience to God's word so that we can go to this great place. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- A half-hearted follower of Christ can never render whole-hearted service to Christ.
- When speaking the truth to others, use candid speech, not candied speech.
- It is hard to convince someone of your interest in the church when you are absent out of the church.
- You can betray Christ by your silence just as well as by your speech.

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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. - 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 - Some of the best Bible admonitions are the shortest admonitions. For example, Jesus said, "believe in God, believe also in me" (John 14:1), and Paul wrote, "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Another short Bible admonition is found in the book of Revelation. Here, we find that the apostle John was a faithful Christian, but even he needed a worship reminder. On two occasions, when John fell down at the feet of the angel, the angel said very simply, "Worship God" (Revelation 19:10; 22:8 -9; compare Acts 10:25-26).

If John needed this admonition, surely there are many today who need the same. The simple Bible admonition, "Worship God", is still needed today. Who needs this reminder? Well, let's take a look at a few individuals who need to be reminded to worship God.

THE UNBELIEVER

A large percentage of the world's population are unbelievers. They are secularists, atheists, agnostics, and nonreligious. About 14% of the population in 2012 were unbelievers. The unbeliever worships creation (including self) and it leads him to gross immorality (Romans 1:18-32). Are you an unbeliever? Worship God!

THE IDOLATER

There are approximately 4,200 religions in the world, and many, such as Hinduism, are fully idolatrous. The idolater worships many false gods that are made in his own image and it leads him to gross immorality (Exodus 32:6-8; Numbers 25:1ff; 2 Kings 17:16-17; Isaiah 44:12-17; Ezekiel 8:16; Zephaniah 1:5; Acts 17:23; 19:27; Revelation 9:20). Are you an idolater? Worship God!

THE SATANIST

Believe it or not, there are various Satanic groups in the world who hold devilish beliefs. It is estimated that there are 50 – 100,000 followers of Satan. The Satanist worships the Devil and it too leads him to gross immorality (Matthew 4:9-10; Luke 4:7; James 3:15-16; Revelation 13:4, 8, 12, 15; 14:9, 11; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4; see 17:3-6; 18:2-3, 9, 23-24). Are you a Satanist? Worship God

THE DENOMINATIONALIST

Thousands of religions and denominations exist today (Catholics, Protestants, Evangelicals, etc.). In the year 1900 there were approximately 1,600 religious groups and in 2012 there were approximately 43,000. It is estimated that by the year 2025 there will be 55,000 religious groups!

The denominationalist worships God <u>and</u> his man-made traditions and creeds. It leads him to religious division and confusion (Matthew 5:8-9; Mark 7:7; John 4:21-24; Philippians 3:3). Are you a denominationalist (Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, etc.)? Worship God!

THE MOCKER

Surprisingly, many today mock the whole idea of worship. Like those who mocked Jesus and feigned their worship of him, the mocker "worships" in a way which leads to his own pride (Mark 15:19). Are you a mocker? Worship God!

THE CHRISTIAN

Yes, even the Christian needs the simple admonition to "worship God". Some Christians are weak in their worship which leads to spiritual anemia (I Corinthians II:30). Some Christians disrupt the worship service of others not remembering that they are in the presence of their Maker (Psalm 95:6; 96:9). Some Christians corrupt the true worship of God with their man-made philosophies (Colossians 2:18-23). Some Christians make a habit of forsaking worship (Hebrews 10:25).

"Worship God." We all need this simple reminder! And, we need to tell others, "Worship God". This eternal gospel or good news should be proclaimed to everyone on earth: Fear God, give him glory, his judgment is come, and worship him that made the heaven and the earth (Revelation 14:6-7). - Chris Reeves