

May 12, 2024

The Last Judgment – Lesson 6

This morning, we will turn our attention to the issue of rewards or prizes that Jesus gives us for our ...*good deeds*... As we begin, let's remember that our rewards will be based on our ...*good deeds*... Knowing this, we need to understand the meaning of ...*good*...

In the N.T., the most common Greek words used for good are *agathos* and *kalos*

agathos--describes a good deed that which morally good

In **Luke 6:45** Jesus tells us that ...*the good [agathos] man brings good [agathos] things [deeds] out of the good [agathos] stored up in his heart*...

kalos--describes a good deed that is worthy of praise

Matt 26:10 ...*she has done a good [kalos] deed [a beautiful [kalos] thing--NIV] to Me*...

And we know that only God is Righteous [**Daniel 9:14**] and worthy of praise

This means that a deed is good because it says that ...*God is good*...

it is ...*good*... because it is a ...*God deed*...

Listen to what Jesus told the young man called Him ...*Good Teacher*...

...*no one is good [agathos] except God alone*... **Mark 10:18**

And those deeds that deny that Jesus is Lord are judged as ...*bad deeds*...

Titus 1:16 ...*by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed*...

Now we are ready to turn our attention to the issue of rewards. As we proceed, let's keep in mind that God is Subject and significance of each reward. This is why we are told be ...*zealous for good deeds*... in **Titus 2:14**.

Why?

each reward is from God and is about God and for God

each reward is a statement about the goodness of God

each reward is a display of the glory of God

This is what the Lord told Abraham in **Gen. 1:15** - ...*I am ...your very great reward...*

This is why Jesus told us to ...*store up rewards in Heaven...* [**Matt. 6:19-21**]

This is also why we are told that we are to be ...*zealous for good deeds...* in **Titus 2:14**

In summary, we are rewarded for those deeds that display Jesus in us by the power of the Spirit. In other words, we are rewarded for our cooperation [deeds] with the Spirit as He ...*conforms us to the image of [Jesus]*

In this way, each ...*deed...* testifies [John 15:26] ...*that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father* [**Phil. 2:11**], thus fulfilling Gen. 1:26-28.

Now let's turn our attention to consider the various rewards that God has promised for our good deeds.

The Greek for rewards is *misthos* which has to do with The N.T. mentions *crowns* and *rewards*.

Crowns:

The Greek for Crown is *stephanos* and is used 17 times in the N.T. A crown was a wreath worn in recognition of a victory [2 Tim 2:5] in a race or in war. This means that each crown was a recognition of the Victory of Jesus over sin and Satan and even death.

The most important Truth about these crowns is that they declare ...*that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father* [Phil 2:11]

The N.T. mentions two different crowns:

The 1st mention is the most important.

John 19:5 ...Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns.

Keeping in mind that these crowns signified that ...*Jesus Christ is Lord...*

What is God showing us in the crown of thorns?

He is showing us what we read in **Rom. 5:20**, ...*where sin [abounds], grace abounds even more...*

Why did the soldiers put the crown of thorns on Jesus' head?

Of course, the answer is in Genesis:

Gen. 3:17-18 *Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall grow...*

Jesus wore the crown of thorns to show that He is our Divine Substitute Who suffers the [curse] of our sin.

Gal. 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me...*

When I look at the crown of thorns, I need to remember that the crown that Jesus wore used to be my crown of condemnation.

Next week we will continue to look at the various crowns that we will receive at the bema.