

"God Is The Rewarder"

Hebrews 11:6

Introduction:

- A. As We Have Before Observed, Conviction Determines Conduct
1. Whether or not we believe God exists determines our conduct before Him - Psa 10:3-11
 - a. The man who denies the existence of Deity is not concerned with pleasing Him, neither does he fear displeasing Him.
 - b. Since there is no God, he says, man is a law unto himself. Every man does that which is right in his own eyes - Prov 30:11-14
 - c. This principle exemplified daily by those around us - Psa 14:1; 53:1
 2. Similarly, what we believe about God, viz., regarding His character, determines our conduct before Him - Heb 11:26
 - a. The man who doubts either God's ability or His willingness to bring into judgment will undoubtedly behave without regard to His laws - Isa 5:19-21; 29:15; Job 22:12-14; Eze 9:9; see: Num 15:38-41
 - b. The man who is ignorant of God, either by neglect or default, will learn to be a law unto himself - Judg 2:10, 11
 - 1) He will make for himself a god after his own image and likeness - Gal 4:8; Rom 1:21-31
- B. Therefore, It's not Enough to Believe "God Is"
1. To be saved requires more than an acknowledgement of God's existence. It necessitates the acceptance of the Divine character - Exo 20:5, 6; 34:6, 7; Num 4:18; Deu 4:31, 32; Psa 86:15
 2. Paul sums up the character of God in this one word, "rewarder."
 - a. The word designates a "remunerator," one who pays for goods provided, services rendered, or losses incurred (see: Strong's Greek Lexicon).

- b. Thus, Paul indicates that God is one who will make a fair, just and equitable remuneration or reward to all that seek Him.
- C. There Is Ample Evidence to Persuade that God Is Indeed a Rewarder
1. There is the evidence found in creation - Matt 5:45; Acts 14:15-17
 2. There is the evidence found in the relationship of the Old Testament saints:
 - a. Adam & Eve - Gen 1 and 2
 - b. Enoch - Gen 5:24
 - c. Noah - Gen 6 through 9
 - d. Abraham - Gen 12ff
 - e. Job
 - f. Jacob - Gen 27ff
 - g. Joseph - Genesis 37ff
 - h. Moses - Exo
 - i. David - 2 Sam 7:8,9
 - j. Solomon - 2 Chr 9:22, 23
 3. There is the evidence found in the mission of Christ:
 - a. It was a mission of mercy and compassion - Matt 8:16,17; 20:34
 - b. It was a mission of reconciliation and restoration - Jn 3:17
 - c. It was a mission of service - Jn 13:4-17

I. ***Persuaded that God Is a Rewarder, I Will Diligently Seek Him***

- A. "He who comes to God" must do so by Jesus Christ - Jn 14:6
- B. "He who comes to God" must be taught of God - Jn 6:44-45
- C. "He who comes to God" must believe and obey the Gospel - Matt 11:28-30
 1. Believe unto righteousness - Rom 10:10, 17
 2. Repent unto life - Acts 11:18
 3. Confess unto salvation - Rom 10:10
 4. Be baptized unto remission of sins - Acts 2:38

- D. A diligent search for God will yield favorable results - Acts 17:27; cf., v. 11
- E. The man who will not search the Scriptures and obey the Gospel will not be rewarded of God.

II. *Persuaded that God Is a Rewarder, My Faith Will Endure*

- A. There is a temporal benefit, blessing or reward in seeking after God.
 - 1. This was evidence in the lives of some of the Old Testament saints.
 - 2. This is affirmed in the New Testament - 1 Tim 4:7-8:
 - a. There is peace - Phil 4:6-7
 - b. There is comfort - 1 Thess 4:13
 - c. There is joy - Phil 3:3
 - d. There is freedom - Gal 5:1
 - e. There is success - Rev 5:9-10
- B. However, Paul does not have in view any present reward in Hebrews 11:6
 - 1. The one that comes to God "must believe. . . that He is a rewarder."
 - 2. Therefore, the reward is a matter of faith. It is a thing unseen and hoped for - Heb 11:1
 - 3. That for which we hope, we have not seen - Rom 8:24
- C. Now, if we are truly convicted of both God's ability and His desire to reward (Rom 8:31-32), then we will endure and wait for it (8:25).
 - 1. We will suffer hardship and endure suffering to complete victory - Rom 8:35-37
 - 2. We will remain loyal to the doctrine of Christ - cf. 2 Tim 1:12-13

III. *Persuaded that God Is a Rewarder, I Will Look to Things Above*

- A. The saint fully persuaded of the eternal reward will not be sidetracked into the pursuit of the mundane - Col 3:1-2; cf., Lk 8:14; 22:34; Mk 4:19
 - 1. This is an ever-present danger. Perhaps, it is the thing that troubles us most - 1 Tim 6:6-10; Heb 13:5-6

2. We cheat God out of more and more of our time and talent by being entangled in the cumbersome burdens that worldlings bear—job, school, family, friends, and community. God must come first - Matt 6:31-33
- B. To avoid the pitfalls of covetousness, we must be confident of the value of the treasure we are saving:
1. Its value seen in its durability - Matt 6:19-20; Rom 2:6-7; 1 Pet 1:3-5, 1 Cor 9:25
 2. Its value suggested by what will not be there - Rev 21:1-4
 3. Its value implied in lesser-to-greater comparison with the stresses of life - 2 Cor 4:16-18

Conclusion:

- A. Are You Fully Persuaded that God Is a Rewarder?
1. A candid evaluation of your spiritual affairs will lead you to the answer.
 - a. Have you obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
 - b. Are you enduring the hardships and trials that come to all believers with grace and gratitude?
 - c. Do you care more for things and pleasures than you do for the Church of Christ?
 2. Having answered truthfully, what should you do right now?
- B. God Also Rewards Those that Do not Seek Him!
1. God will render to all according to His works - Matt 16:27; Rom 2:6-11
 - a. The believer will receive eternal life.
 - b. The unbeliever will receive - Rom 6:22-23; Matt 25:41, 44
 2. There is no escaping this reward - Heb 2:2-3
 - a. It is a fearful thing to fall into His hands - Heb 10:30-31
 - b. God will reward him - 2 Tim 4:14