

**“The Sermon on the Mount (pt. 3)  
Rewards and Resources of the Christian”  
Matt. 6**

**Open:** Review

- The Beatitudes = The attitudes that should be present in a Christian’s life.
- The Responsibilities of a Christian = To be salt and light in this world.
- The Responses of a Christian = To have principled responses with our actions and our words.

**Tran:** *This week we will look at the Rewards and Resources of the Christian.*

- Life has a **predetermined value** on it.
  - The quality of life one lives is not based on chance or circumstance; it is determined by the life one chooses to live.
  - There are only two choices, when it comes to quality of life, that an individual can choose from...
    - Individuals will choose to, by faith, live the quality-of-life God has laid out; or individuals will choose to live the quality-of-life man thinks he can attain by his own merit.
- As a child of God, it is important to view the value through God’s eyes (eternity) and not through the eyes of man (temporary).
  - While it is true that there is a certain level of value in all things; it is important to understand that **God has predetermined the value of life** and He has told us, in the Bible, which lifestyle is the most profitable lifestyle to live.
  - We need to compare the value of a lifestyle by where it ends up and allow that to determine for us which lifestyle is best, and which lifestyle we are going to live.
  - We are not to allow the hopeful gain of earthly riches to cause us to forfeit the promised eternal riches.
  - We are instructed to, by faith, believe what God has promised will be better than what the world is offering.
- We need to look at the lending history of those offering a lifestyle to live; and compare the outcome of the lives of those who have taken loans from those offering value in life. **Rom. 6:16** “*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*”
  - Satan’s track record – Promises the world and delivers bondage and destruction. **Gen. 3**
  - God’s track record – Offers redemption to the broken and victory to the faithful and delivers riches far beyond human comprehension. **Eph. 3:16-21** “*That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; [17] That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, [18] May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; [19] And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. [20] Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, [21] Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*”

## I. A Christian's Reward.

- We need to recognize that, although we will be blessed now for how we obey God's Words, we will receive our full rewards one day in heaven. **II Cor. 5:10** *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."*
- a. Do not do good deeds in life in order to be recognized by man. Living your life to be praised by man can make one feel good; but that is a temporal reward. **Mt. 6:1-4**
  - i. **We are to do what we are supposed to do to bring glory to the heavenly Father. Mt. 5:16**
    - **Col. 3:22-24** *"Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: [23] And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; [24] Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."*
  - ii. I am to live my life in obedience to God's Word so I can bring credibility to the truth I am trying to distribute. **I Peter 2:11-12** *"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; [12] Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation."*
- b. Do not do spiritual things to seem to others as spiritual. **Mt. 6:5-8; 16-18**
  - **Disclaimer:** *I would rather have someone do right for the wrong reasons than to live doing wrong for the "right" reasons; but at some point, in the Christian life one should mature to the level of doing right for the right reason. Those who would criticize this teaching are probably justifying a "false- lifestyle" of Christianity in their own life.*
  - i. We are not to pray to sound spiritual. **Mt. 6:5-6**
    - **ILL: Lk. 18:11-14** *"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. [12] I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. [13] And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. [14] I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."*
  - ii. Prayer is essential to the life of a Christian. It is through prayer that both physical and spiritual things are gained; for both ourselves and others. **Mt. 6:9-13**
- c. What is the quality of rewards you wish to gain? **Mt. 6:19-21**
  - i. **Ps. 39:6-7** *"Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them. [7] And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee."*
  - ii. **Prov. 23:4-5** *"Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. [5] Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven."*
  - iii. Do you want all your rewards to be gained by your own merit here on this earth where they will be forgotten about and eventually fall unnoticed... (**vs. 2, 5,16**)
  - iv. ...or do you want your rewards to be given to you by the heavenly Father when He sees best to give them to you? (**vs. 4, 6, 18**)

## II. A Christian's Resources.

- The resources available to an obedient child of God will sustain and satisfy until the day rewards are given out. **Ps. 145:16** *"Thou openest thine hand, and satisfies the desire of every living thing."*
- A Christian should guard himself from creating appetites that will cause him to become enamored with things that will distract him from true blessings in life. **Prov. 10:2, 22** *"Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death. [22] The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."*
- a. In life, a choice must be made. Do I live my life in hopes to gain something or do I live my life trusting in that someone (God) who will provide for me all my needs? **Mt. 6:24**
  - i. Will I live my life seeking hopeful treasures and spending my time and resources for hopeful gain of great riches? **ILL: Spanish Explores search for gold.**
  - ii. Will I live my life trusting and obeying God? Trusting He will provide and obeying so He can bless? **ILL: Abrahams journey of faith in search of pleasing God.**
- b. Life is too short to spend most of it proving right what the Bible has already stated (man's way will lead to destruction and God's way will lead to prosperity). Trust that God can and will provide for your every need. **Mt. 6:25-32**
  - i. Invest your life in serving God, the dividends yielded will be far greater than gambling your life away in the casinos of man's philosophy.
  - ii. If God provides food for the birds and clothes the fields, then can He not provide for our needs. Worrying about the staples of life will only produce a lack of faith and doubt in God.
- c. By seeking to please God, I will have all the things I want in life. **Mt. 6:33-34**
  - i. When I seek to preserve my life by earthly means, I will forfeit the protection in life that faith offers the obedient child of God. **Lk. 17:32-33** *"Remember Lot's wife. [33] Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it."*
  - ii. My desire in life should be to want what God wants me to have. If I spend my life seeking what God wants for me, it will far exceed what I thought I wanted for my life. **Ps. 37:4** *"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."*
  - iii. By wanting what God has given me, I will have everything that I want. I must trust that God has already given to me what is best. **Phil. 4:11** *"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."*

### **Prov. 10:2**

*"Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death."*

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### ***"Review Questions"***

1. Life has predetermined **?????** on it. **Value.**
2. **?????** has predetermined the value of life. **God.**
3. Why are we supposed to do what God has told us to do? **To bring glory and honor to God with our lives.**
4. Christians should guard themselves from creating appetites that will **?????** them from true blessings in life. **Distract.**
5. Trust that God can and will provide for your every **?????** **Need.**