

What Is Our Eternal Reward?

Most people will be shocked when they begin to understand what the Christian Bible actually tells us about our reward and human potential after death.

We learn, contrary to what we may have been taught about a heavenly eternity of idleness or a paradise of pleasure, God's purpose for every Christian is work and rulership.

Christians will have responsibility on a far higher level than most of us have ever come in contact with, let alone exercised.

John 5:17 [NIV] *“Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.”*

When we meditate on this, very short but powerful statement by the Son of God, work is given a new level of importance in our lives.

Genesis 2:15 [NIV] *“The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”*

A working situation was the first environment that humanity was placed into by the Creator God.

There are two parables that explain this future responsibility.

Luke 19:11-13 [NIV] *“While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. He said: “A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. ‘Put this money to work,’ he said, ‘until I come back.’”*

In the context of salvation and the future Kingdom of God, that is the created family of God, we find our Master gives us a job of work to do.

Luke 19:14 [NIV] *“But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We don’t want this man to be our king.’”*

Many people rejected both the Master [Jesus Christ] and the work they were given to do.

Luke 19:15 [NIV] *“He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.”*

This is referring directly to the Second Coming of our Master, Jesus Christ, when judgement and rewards will be presented to all humanity.

Luke 19:16-17 [NIV] *“The first one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned ten more.’ “‘Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’”*

Note two things that were the reward this person received.

The work this person had done with what they had been given, life and talents, resulted in an increase in their quality of life and use of talents.

Their reward was even greater responsibility and work.

Luke 19:18-19 [NIV] *“The second came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned five more.’ ‘His master answered, ‘You take charge of five cities.’”*

This person had a shorter lifespan and less talent but had doubled what they had received. Their reward was less responsibility and work, but as much as they would enjoy experiencing.

Isaiah 65:14 [Amplified Bible] *“Behold My servants shall sing for joy of heart...”*

This is in the context of prophecy relating to the new world that will be the future for Christians. [v17]

Luke 19:20-23 [NIV] *“Then another servant came and said, ‘Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.’ ‘His master replied, ‘I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? Why then didn’t you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?’”*

This person had **not** used the life and talent they had received. Their reward was the anger of their Creator God for **not** working and **no** future life. [v27]

We find a similar parable in **Matthew 25:14-30** where our entry into the joyful future life is central to our reward.

John 17:3 [NIV] *“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*

Eternal life is a continually more intimate relationship with our Creator God.

1 John 5:11 [NIV] *“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”*

Note this state of eternal life is being enacted now in this present physical life, as we seek to become more like our Creator, God. [Download our articles under main heading ‘Life’ to understand why we have been given physical life.] We need to include that area of life that involves a major part of our existence, our work.

When we meditate on future work and responsibility, we may find it difficult to relate our present skills to a future ruler of a city.

Should we change our job to one of management in city or town government?

Just what is the relationship between our work now and our work in God’s Kingdom?

Our present work-skills may be obsolete in a future society but there are certain aspects that are common to every job, it is these we need to be developing.

Let us consider some of these less technical aspects of our work.

How do we manage our time when on the job?

Do we work hard to meet our employer’s deadlines?

Do we understand and strive to meet the needs of our clients or customers?

Can we work with other people on the same job in harmony?

Are we always loyal to our employer or employees?

Are we motivated, diligent and alert when on the job?

Such work habits and skills in human relations are excellent training for our future work and leadership in eternal life.

Because all the above are part of our character they are very important to our Creator God now and in the future.

Could our work habits need a refresher course?

The Christian Bible is the best place to start improving our habits, for it is the foundation of all knowledge and wisdom.

Colossians 3:22 [NIV] *“Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favour, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.”*

One trait on which God will judge us is whether we can carry out instructions on the job.

We have all seen those who produce quality work quickly **only** when the foreman or employer are watching or when promotion or salary increase are at stake.

Colossians 3:23-24 [NIV] *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”*

Our real Master is Jesus Christ and always will be.

God the Father and Jesus Christ know that we will **not** have a different approach to work in His created family as we do now.

This approach to work is as important within our present family group and home.

Revelation 19:7-8 [NIV] *“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)”*

We need to keep in the back of our mind at all times, that we as Christians are preparing now to become the wife, that is working partner, of Jesus Christ.

The Christian Bible does not leave us without detailed description of how the wife of Jesus Christ should be preparing herself.

Proverbs 31:10-31 [NIV] *“A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: “Many women do noble things, but you surpass*

them all.” Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.”

Can we reflect all the work qualities of the wife described in these verses?

Men need to transcribe what we see in the noble character of this woman to their approach to Jesus Christ as the Husband and Master in our future family home, the Kingdom [family grown big] of the Creator God.