

BUILDING FOR ETERNITY, 1 Cor. 3:9-15

IN THIS LIFE WE ARE PREPARING FOR ETERNITY-

- A. Through Christ's work all believers are given the gift of eternal life- just believe & receive!
- Through OUR life's works we are qualifying for our eternal rewards & positions! -heaven: sit on a cloud? GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR EACH OF OUR LIVES TO FULFILL (no accidents, no junk w/ God!) SOME PEOPLE WILL FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSES FOR THEIR LIFE & GAIN GREAT REWARD
 - The Apostle Paul: 2 Tim.4:7-8 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day."
 - Christ knew He had finished His purpose in life "It Is Finished."
 - The 12 Apostles & the early Christians: Mat.19:21, 27-29 great rewards!
- B. We will All be Judged & Rewarded;
- Heb.9:27, "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment"
 - Rev.22:12 "Behold, I am coming quickly & My reward is w/ Me to give to every one according to his work."
 - We will be judged by the quality of our works: 1 Cor.3:12-15.
 - Carnal works will be tested by fire & destroyed, there will be no rewards for them, I Cor.3:15
 - Spiritual works will be tested & remain, they will earn eternal rewards, I Cor. 3:14
- C. Examples of godly works that build for eternity - that build w/ Gold, Silver, & Precious Gems:
- 1) Lay up treasures in heaven, Mt.6:19-20
 - 2) Feeding the poor & crippled, Lk.14:12-14 You will be repaid at the resurrection.
 - 3) Teach and obey all the commandments, Mt.5:19- "He shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."
 - 4) Enduring persecution, Mt.5:11-12. Great is your reward in heaven!
 - 5) Mk.9:41 Even giving a cup of cold water will be rewarded!
- D. Many types of Eternal Rewards:
- a. Mansions, Jn.14:2
 - b. Crowns, Rev.2:10 (c of life), 1 Thess.2:19 (c of rejoicing), 2 Tim.4:8 (c of righteousness) Rev.19:12 (many c)
 - c. Thrones, Rev.3:21, 20:4
 - d. Garments, Rev.19:8. The garments of the Priests of Israel revealed their rank & ministries. Uniforms often reveal rank, abilities, accomplishments, etc. on earth (Ex.28) - and in heaven (Ezek.28:13)
 - e. Position & Rank- according to how close we are to the throne of God, Rev.4:2-5:14, Rev.14:1-4
 - f. In the Resurrection, Christians will enter into different levels of glory:
 - 1) Jesus Christ will light the new Jerusalem, Rev.21:23.
 - 2) The resurrected saints will vary in glory, 1 Cor.15:41-42, Dan.12:2-3 (J B's vision: all equal, all different)
 - 3) We can qualify for a better resurrection, Heb.11:35 William Booth's vision, Chinese song 'to be a martyr'
 - g. In the Many Ages to Come in the Future, God will Continue to Lead His People Onwards, Eph.2:7, Rev.21:7.

REWARDS for YOURSELF FOR ALL ETERNITY- REWARDS FOR GOD'S KINGDOM & for CHRIST!

People study diligently to get a good job... work hard to gain promotions... good retirement, good funeral!

Also, people work not just for their own benefit: for their family- for their company, for their nation!

HOW MUCH MORE we should WE BUILD for the family of God, AND for Christ's eternal kingdom!

Mt.6:19-20 Lay up your treasures in heaven! BUILD FOR ETERNITY!