

REWARDED ACCORDING TO WORKS

*And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. **And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and **they were judged every man according to their works.** And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

Revelation 20:11-15

Anyone who hasn't already been brainwashed by the traditional view of this passage—which is that everyone at this resurrection is damned—would understand by the way it's constructed that some people at this resurrection will not be cast into the Lake of Fire. If everyone at this judgment were automatically damned, as is universally taught, the apostle John would have not expressed himself the way he did. He would not have said: *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.* The term, “whosoever was not found” is a construction that strongly implies some names will be found in that book.

Of course, the reason scholars automatically assume everyone at this resurrection will be damned is because John said they will be judged “according to their works”—and we all know nobody can be “saved” by their own works, don't we? Or can they?

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Matthew 25:31

Question: Who is with the Son of Man when He comes “in glory”?

Answer: The “elect” will be with the Son of Man when He comes in his glory.

*And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see **the Son of man coming** in the clouds of heaven with power and **great glory.** And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, **and they shall gather together his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*

Matthew 24:30-31

*And then shall they see **the Son of man coming** in the clouds with **great power and glory.** And then shall he send his angels, and shall **gather together his elect** from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.*

Mark 13:26-27

As we read the rest of this passage, we need to understand two things: (1) The sheep and the goat *nations*, which are gathered before the Lord to be judged, are not the body of Christ (the “elect”), for the elect are already with the Lord when this happens; and (2) These nations are not judged as to whether or not they accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. The Lord said very clearly their entry into eternal life or eternal damnation would be based on what they did or did not **DO** to the “the least of these, my brethren” (ie: the elect).

*And before him shall be gathered **all nations**: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.***

*Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.** And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

Matthew 25:32-46

Again, these nations were either saved or lost eternally on the basis of WHAT THEY DID to Christians.

I am not saying *everyone* can be saved by works. What I am saying is that if you want to be faithful to the Scripture, then you must acknowledge that the issue of salvation is not as cut and dry as our theologians have told us. It is certainly true that anyone who has heard the gospel must accept it. There is no way a person can reject the gospel and then somehow be saved by their own works. Therefore, none of what transpires in these two passages can be applied to us. We have heard the gospel. Acceptance of that gospel and serving the Lord Jesus Christ is the *only option* for us.

But this does not change the fact that, according to the Scripture, it's just as important to God what we DO as it is what we BELIEVE. In fact, according to the Scripture, we are not going to be judged or rewarded according to what we believe or confess. We are going to be judged and rewarded according to what we have DONE.

*He repays a man for what he **has done**; he brings upon him what **his conduct deserves**.*

Job 34:11 NIV

*Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man **according to his work**.*

Psalms 62:12

*If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and **shall not he render to every man according to his works?***

Proverbs 24:12

*Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for **they shall eat the fruit of their doings**.*

Isaiah 3:10

*I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even **to give every man according to his ways**, and according to the fruit of **his doings**.*

Jeremiah 17:10

*Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: **to give every one according to his ways**, and according to the fruit of **his doings**:*

Jeremiah 32:19

*Who will render to every man **according to his deeds**: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that **doeth evil**, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that **worketh good**, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God.*

Romans 2:6-11

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things **done in his body**, according to that **he hath done**, whether it be good or bad.*

II. Corinthians 5:10

*Knowing that whatsoever good thing **any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.***

Ephesians 6:8

*And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons **judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:***

I. Peter 1:17

*And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and **I will give unto every one of you according to your works.***

Revelation 2:23

*And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, **to give every man according as his work shall be.***

Revelation 22:12

The vast majority of today's Christians have no idea that what they DO in this life is affecting thier future eternal state much more than what they BELIEVE or confess. Listen to what Paul says about our new bodies.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

II. Corinthians 4:17-5:11 NKJ

Paul said our "light affliction" is producing for us an "exceeding and eternal weight of glory". As you continue to read what he is saying, you can see that the "glory" he is referring to has to do with our new bodies. Indeed, the "eternal wight of glory" IS our building from heaven (ie: new body). In other words, kind of body we will get, how

much glory it will manifest, is being produced by the “light afflictions” we are enduring while in this body. What this means is the more “afflictions” we (willingly) partake of and endure in this life, the more glorious a resurrected body we will have in the next life. This is exactly what the writer of Hebrews was talking about when he said:

*Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might **obtain a better resurrection**:*

Hebrews 11:35

Under the Old Covenant - God granted a good, long life to those who trusted Him. He didn't require His people to give up this life. He blessed this life if they obeyed them.

Under the New Covenant - It is totally different. God says we must give up this life in order to have *eternal* life. The more of *this* life we lay down, the more eternal life, the more eternal rewards and glory we will have in the next life. So today's preachers are still preaching the Old Covenant because they are telling the people the same thing Moses told them. Serve God and He will grant you a good, healthy, long life. They say this is His will for the Christian, but just the opposite is true. His will is that we die to this life, in order to have eternal life.

This truth is not only important with regards to our rewards, it's also very important regarding the last days deception. The only thing that will keep us from being deceived by the counterfeit Christ in this hour is the LIFE of God. This spirit cannot overcome God's life. And the only way we get God's life is by *dying*.