

“Our Eternal Reward – Part 3”
Mark 10:28-31
(Preached at Trinity, April 17, 2013)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. In **Verse 21** Jesus commanded the Rich Young Ruler to divest himself of those things that were his idols and come follow Him. He was unwilling and went away sorrowful.
2. Peter then speaks up. He is still thinking about our Lord's words in **Verse 21**
Mark 10:21 NAU - "go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."
 - A. Jesus commanded the Rich Young Ruler to forsake all and follow Christ. Peter considered his life and the life of the other apostles and declares:
Mark 10:28 NAU - "Behold, we have left everything and followed You."
Matthew records a fuller statement:
Matthew 19:27 NAS - "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?"
 - B. He wanted to know what reward he can expect for what he has given up.
Again, he was considering our Lord's words to the Rich Young Ruler.
"go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven
 - C. What exactly is the disciple's reward?
3. In His answer Jesus speaks of two aspects of our reward, one aspect is in the realm of this age and the other aspect is reserved for eternity.
Mark 10:30 NAU - "now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life."
4. So far we've looked primarily upon the blessings of this present age. In spite of the suffering that comes with discipleship, there are infinite rewards in this life. Our reward far exceeds anything that we lose. Jesus declares a hundredfold reward of everything forsaken - "hundred fold" being used to describe "many times over."
If there was nothing beyond this life, following Christ would be a life well-lived and full of great reward.
5. But what about our eternal reward. Paul spoke of it.
2 Timothy 4:7-8 NAU - "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; ⁸ in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing."
6. We have wonderful blessings in heaven
Mark 10:30 NAU - "and in the age to come, eternal life"

7. We must take heed that our reward is always given against the backdrop this life.
- A. Notice again the context of discipleship. We leave all to follow Christ.
Mark 10:21 NAS - "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."
Mark 10:28 NAS - "Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You."
 Compare Jesus' response in **Verses 29-31**. It is in the context of a life forsaken for Christ's sake. It includes persecution.
- B. And the teaching of the Gospel is we must endure to the end.
Mark 13:13 NAS - "And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved."
- C. Christians keep an eye to eternity.
 See **Hebrews 11:24-26**
Hebrews 11:24-26 NAS - "By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; ²⁵ choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin; ²⁶ considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward."
- D. Again, we keep our eyes on the prize: See **Hebrews 12:1-2**
- E. Over and over we are told that the things forsaken in this life cannot be compared to what awaits us.
1. James spoke of the crown reserved for those who endure persecution
James 1:12 NAU - "Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him."
 2. Jesus also spoke of this reward
Matthew 5:11-12 NAU - "Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
8. Heaven has always been put before the eyes of the saints to encourage them on their journey.
- I. Jesus says we shall have "eternal life." – **Verse 30**
- A. There is a contrast between life and death
1. Eternal life refers to an eternal existence in the communion and presence of God. It refers to the life God gave us at creation. It refers to a restoration from the death brought about by the fall.
 2. Death is the consequence of sin. Eternally, it means to be forsaken and cast away. It is to be deprived eternally of the infinite blessing of knowing God. It is to suffer in the place of forsakenness – Hell
 3. We are all eternal beings—but how will we spend eternity?
 What do we know about our eternal reward?
- B. Just as our chief reward in this age is Christ, He is also our chief reward in the age to come.
1. We shall see Him. We shall be with Him.
Romans 6:8 NAU - "Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him"
2 Timothy 2:11 NAU - " It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him"

John 14:2-3 NAS - "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also."

- a. As the Bride of Christ we will spend eternity with our Bridegroom
- b. The church is the New Jerusalem. It will find its perfection in eternity.

Revelation 21:2-3 NAU - "And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,"

- 2. Not only will we be *with* Him; we shall be *like* Him.

1 John 3:2 NAU - "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is."

Philippians 3:20-21 NAU - "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself."

- a. We will share in His holiness – sin shall be no more
We currently mourn and groan and contend with sin. It is a constant struggle for us.
- b. Paul always lived in pursuit of his reward. He called it his prize and was careful that he would not be disqualified.
1 Corinthians 9:25-27 NAU - "Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; ²⁷ but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified."

- c. In our eternal reward this struggle against sin shall be no more

- 3. This change in our bodies will have other rewards

- a. The redeemed shall put on glorified bodies.
1 Corinthians 15:42 NAU - "It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable *body*;"
1 Corinthians 15:53 NAU - "For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality."
- b. All that pertains to our mortality will be forever gone. There will be no death, no aging, no sickness
Revelation 21:4 NAU - "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."
- c. If this body is just a vessel to hold our eternal spirit why are we so fearful of death?

- C. We will spend eternity with Christ in a restored universe
2 Peter 3:12-13 NAU - " looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! ¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells."
Revelation 21:1 NAU - "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea."
1. God is going to restore all things. All corruption will be removed.
Revelation 21:5 NAU - "And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."
 2. Paul said that all of creation is earnestly awaiting this restoration
Romans 8:18-22 NAU - "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now."
 3. We don't know precisely what the restored earth will look like but it will not be completely foreign to what we know now but radically new.
 The old will not be annihilated but restored. The new creation will not be a creation out of nothing.
 It will be physical – a place . It will be a new earth, a restored earth.
 It will be perfect. It will be a glorious existence.
 It will be void of earthquake, flood or tornado
 It will be a place of unimaginable beauty.
 It will be full of activity. It will be a place of unity and peace. We will be surrounded by others full of love and holiness.
 4. Contrast it with hell. A place created with the single purpose of judgment and punishment. It will be a place of torment –endless heat.
 Instead of beauty it will be darkness, probably void of color.
 Instead of being surrounded by holiness and love these poor souls will be surrounded by unrestrained hatred and wickedness

Conclusion:

1. Does the thought of eternity weigh heavily upon your heart? It should.
 See **Colossians 3:1-10**
2. The thought of judgment and hell should weigh heavily upon those of unbelief.
Romans 2:4-10