

Store Up for Yourselves Treasures in Heaven

Overview of what the Bible says about Heavenly Rewards

- At the judgement, all true believers will be given eternal life regardless of their quality of stewardship or their obedience (John 5:22-24; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15)
- Believers will also be given rewards for how they lived their lives on earth, and these rewards will last forever
 - (Luke 14:13-14; 2 Corinthians 5:8-10; James 3:1)

You Should Pursue Eternal Rewards

- Eternal rewards are important
 - How significant it is that they're eternal
 - The idea of being able to make eternity even better
 - It's already, even without any rewards, probably going to be happier than you could even imagine being. And have the chance to take something that great, and make it even more happy and awesome than it already is something you should jump at the chance at
- It's not wrong to pursue rewards
 - Jesus tells you to as explicitly instruction (Matthew 6:19-21; Mark 10:21)
 - God wants us to obey from love, and He wants us to obey from faith (Hebrews 11:6)
 - Jesus obeyed from love and faith
 - He died for our sakes (Galatians 2:20)
 - He died for the joy set before Him (Hebrews 12:1-2)
 - Both are true, and Jesus is our perfect example

How to Best Pursue Eternal Rewards

Having Your Hope Set on Eternity

- The Scriptures encourage us to set our hearts on eternity (1 Peter 1:13)
- Having our hearts set on eternity makes it easier to live with the final judgement in mind

Making the Most of Your Giving

- The Bible mentions several times that we will be rewarded for how we give to others and to God's kingdom
- Learn to be frugal
- Use a budget
- Find ministries you can trust and be passionate about
- Set goals

Making the Most of Your Serving

- The Bible teaches we will be rewarded for our serving (Matthew 20:26; 1 Corinthians 3:8; Colossians 3:23-25)
- Think about where you can best serve
- Develop your giftings (1 Peter 4:10; Ecclesiastes 10:10)
- Learn to make the most of your time (Ephesians 5:15-16)
 - Tips for making the most of your time
 - Learn to be diligent
 - Learn to plan your time ahead and keep a schedule
 - Learn to prioritize and say "no"
 - Set goals

Making the Most of Your Prayer Life

- Jesus mentions rewards for prayer (Matthew 6:5-6, 16-18)
- Set your heart to serve God's kingdom through prayer
- Have a daily time of prayer
- Consider picking a day of the week to fast and pray (for kingdom things)
- Set goals

Being Intentional about Your Motives

- Jesus encourages us to be careful about our motives (Matthew 6:2, 5)
- Be intentional to have love (1 Corinthians 13:3)
- Be intentional to have faith (Hebrews 11:6)
- Be intentional to not have fleshly motives
 - To not do good deeds just so others think well of you (Matthew 6:3)
 - To not serve in the church just because you want the honor, or power, or money (1 Peter 5:2)

Seeking to Excel in Being Merciful

- The Bible teaches that how much we show mercy to others will affect how we are judged
 - (Matthew 5:7; James 2:13; Matthew 7:1-2; Matthew 6:14-15)
- These are somewhat complex to deal with, but what I think these passages probably mean is that when Jesus decides which eternal rewards to give you for your stewardship to Him, he's going to take your good deeds into account, but he's also going to take your sins and disobedience and your wasted stewardship into account, but the more you show mercy to others, the less He'll take your failures and shortcomings into account when deciding which rewards to give you

Being Courageous about the Gospel

- We shouldn't be afraid to suffer for the gospel because we will be rewarded for our suffering (Luke 6:22-23)

Conclusion

- Jesus wants us to pursue eternal rewards
 - He wants us to live our lives on earth with eternity and the judgment in mind
 - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
- Nothing we sacrifice for Christ's Kingdom will be as meaningful as the rewards He generously gives us
 - "It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." – C.S. Lewis