

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 54 (PART 1)

THE SAINT'S REWARDS IN THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM, PART 1

REVELATION 20:4-6

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***“... that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...”
(Eph. 1:18)***

God has a plan for us in this age and, more importantly, in the Age-to-come. Paul calls it **the hope of our calling** (Eph. 1:18). We have a calling in this age, but an even higher calling in the Age-to-come. All that we are doing in this life is to prepare ourselves for our ultimate calling and assignment in the Millennial Kingdom and eternity, which will be forever and ever!



More than that, we will have inheritance and rewards when we see Jesus face to face. These are not automatic and there are conditions laid down by God. Not everyone will get the same rewards. It depends on how we live our life on earth, and a lot of it depends on our heart response. We need to know what are the rewards we can have and then set our hearts on it, and live our lives completely different with an eternal perspective.

As a Church, our perspective and focus are often earthly. When blessings and prosperity become the primary focus of the Church, it is unbiblical. This happens because we do not talk much about Millennial Kingdom, eternity or the rewards we can get, when these things are very much a reality.

SOME MAY SAY,
“I DON’T WANT REWARDS.
I JUST WANT TO LOVE JESUS.”

Yes, loving Jesus is the most important. **However, Jesus also teaches us to go after eternal rewards.** If we search out the teachings of Jesus on His Second Coming, one of the most emphasised issues is that of eternal rewards. If this is one of the most emphasised, surely it is of importance to the heart of Jesus.



Paul himself says he is pursuing the prize and going after crowns (1 Cor. 9:24-27). The eternal perspective Paul had enabled him to see things very differently – he calls the pain, afflictions, persecution and sufferings he went through as light and momentary (2 Cor. 4:8-18). His eyes were fixed on the eternal weight of glory, the eternal calling, inheritance, assignment and rewards he will have when he sees Jesus face to face.

As the End-Time generation, there are **2** fundamental issues we need to settle:



1. DO WE WANT TO BE JESUS' BRIDE?

We have to decide whether we want to be His Bride. If we do, we have to reorder our lives such that preparation to be ready is a priority (Rev. 19:7-8).

2. DO WE WANT TO RUN THE RACE CORRECTLY SO THAT WE CAN PARTNER WITH JESUS TO RULE AND REIGN IN THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM?

Paul exhorts us to run the race in such a way that we can win the prize. This is important because though we are equally loved by God, the rewards we receive are not equal.

In the Millennial Kingdom, the intimacy level of different ones with Jesus will not be the same. Some will be granted a deeper revelation of Jesus. The proximity level will also be different. The movements of our heart which are hidden in this age, will be openly displayed in heaven. These are some of the rewards we can get.

FIVE REASONS WHY WE SHOULD GO AFTER HEAVENLY REWARDS:



**1. RECEIVING HEAVENLY REWARDS
IS A MAJOR THEME AND EMPHASIS
IN JESUS' TEACHINGS**

*(Matt. 10:42; 16:27; 19:21-30;
Luke 6:35; 18:22; Rev. 22:12)*

The Sermon on the Mount is an invitation for us to be great in the sight of God and to pursue heavenly rewards (Matt. 5:12,46; 6:1-8; 16-21). Jesus Himself exhorted us to lay up treasures in heaven.

**2. IT IS GOD'S DESIRE
FOR US TO BE GREAT IN HIS KINGDOM**

(Matt. 5:19)

It is God's desire and invitation for us to be great. God wants us to be great. That is why He wants us to go after rewards. He wired us with a longing to be great. Wanting excellence is not a sin; this is how we are wired to be. The issue then is what is our paradigm, definition and understanding of greatness, and is our paradigm aligned with God's?

There are four kingdom paradigms of greatness:

a. Greatness has to be in the sight of God (Luke 1:15; Matt. 11:11).

It is not about greatness in this age, but greatness as defined by God. For example, if we want to be great, be meek, for the meek shall inherit the earth. Meekness is a crucial attribute that Jesus talks about. It is not weakness, but it is power that is under control, fully submitted to God.

b. The fullness of one's greatness will only be manifested in the Eternal Age.

We may have some of the rewards partially in this age, but the fullness of it will be in the Millennial Kingdom and in eternity.

c. It is based on our heart response — the quality and intensity of our heart response matter. This is often hidden in this age.

d. The invitation is given to all (Matt. 5:19).

**3. REWARDS ARE AN OPEN OR PUBLIC
EXPRESSION OR DISPLAY OF OUR
INTERNAL LOVE FOR JESUS,
IN AND THROUGHOUT ETERNITY**

Our devotion, our love for Jesus, our faithfulness, and the movements of our heart, etc., we do in secret in this age, and they cannot be measured. But in the Age-to-come, they will be openly manifested (1 Cor. 4:5).

Rewards are a tangible and open display of the love we have for Jesus while we are living on earth. In this age, we do it secretly. In heaven, it will be publicly displayed, and the quality and quantity of how much we love God will be measurable.

God honours those who love Him by publicly displaying the movements of our hearts in this age for Him through rewards such as white garments, crowns and thrones. And these rewards will be forever!

4. WE NEED TO HAVE THE CORRECT PARADIGM ABOUT LEADERSHIP AND AUTHORITY IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The secular paradigm of leadership is about lording over people. It is based on pride, personal glory and honour.

The kingdom paradigm of leadership is about being near to Jesus. It is about partnership arising out of intimacy with the One we love. Out of love, we desire to work closely with Him and be involved in what He is doing.

Not every one of us will have equal intimacy, access or proximity to Jesus. The reason we want leadership and thrones during the Millennial Kingdom is because we want to be near to Jesus. That is why in the Parable of the Talents, the master ends his evaluation of the good and faithful servants with the invitation to “enter into the joy of your lord” (Matt. 25:21,23)! This is the joy of being near Jesus and working closely with Him.

**5. WE MUST HAVE A
VISION TO RECEIVE
AFFIRMATION FROM JESUS**

(Matt. 25:21,23)

We must set our heart, and have the focus and vision to hear from the Lord, “Well done, good and faithful servant!”

**In the next session,
we will talk about six
important truths of heavenly
rewards and the ten
different kinds of rewards.
Let's end with this:**

**We are equally loved by God.
But rewards and assignments
in the Millennial Kingdom are
not equal. It will depend on
how we live our life
here on earth.**

**God delights in rewarding us,
in openly displaying our love,
devotion and faithfulness that
we have for Him in this age,
all throughout eternity.**

**Knowing this, let us live
our lives with that eternal
perspective to gain the prize
and the crowns that God has
lovingly prepared for us!**

CONTINUED IN
SESSION 54 (PART 2)



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