

LESSON 10: REWARDS FOR THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

1. The purpose of this lesson, the tenth and last in this series is to encourage you to faithful service to the Lord's church and to look at the rewards of such faithful service. The overall purpose of the series is to help you understand your responsibilities and grow into a mature Christian.

(Question):

A. What is the purpose of this lesson?

2. In this series of lessons you have learned bits of information at a time. This process of learning is necessary because you can't learn it all at once. Discouragement comes too easily if you try to grasp all there is to know about Christianity at one time.

(Question):

A. One understands by learning bits of information. **True or False**

3. At least some of the important, basic and underlying principles of the Christian life are outlined here. These principles, when applied, will help you grow from milk to meat. Furthermore, a great deal of determination will be necessary to continue this Christian race.

(Question):

A. Can you expect to grow if you don't apply the basic principles of Christianity to your life? **Yes or No**

4. Perhaps before you became a Christian you heard glowing remarks and praise about the Christian life. Such remarks as the following were common; A Christian is the happiest person on earth; Christianity is a great life; even if there were no life after death, the Christian life is still the best.

(Question):

A. Do you believe that Christians are the happiest people on earth? **Yes or No**

5. Now that you are a Christian, how do you feel about such statements? If you have been a Christian very long, it is likely that you have been disillusioned at times about the happiness and greatness of the Christian life. There are many who are older spiritually that have failed to show by their actions what they say with their lips. In other words, some set bad examples for you, the young Christian, to follow. You will likely suffer temporary disillusionment about the Christian life.

6. This hypocritical living "confounds the saints and confuses the sinner." It is a bad practice in all respects. No possible influence for good can come from such living. This is a good point for you to remember since you are now a part of the

LESSON 10: REWARDS FOR THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

church and others will be looking to you in the same way that you looked at someone else.

(Question):

A. Hypocritical living " _____ the saints and _____ the sinner."

7. So, many of your fellow Christians act as if Christianity is not the greatest life on earth. They aren't really the happiest people, at least judging from their lives and dispositions.

(Question):

A. Do you like to associate with a hypocrite?
Yes or No

8. Since there are many in the church that leave the impression that Christianity is not the greatest life, perhaps it would be profitable to look at this question: Is Christianity really a great life?

(Question):

A. Do you know Christians who constantly grumble and complain with a long face?
Yes or No

9. To answer this question, you should remember that Christianity is the religion derived from Christ and is based on the Bible. Thus the question really is: Is following the teachings of the Bible (and thus Christ) really a great life? Christ was the greatest man to ever grace the

earth so if we are to be living a great life, it must be patterned after His life and teachings.

(Question):

A. You can live a great, meaningful life without following the teachings of Christ.
True or False

10. Paul stated the importance and greatness of this life in II Co. 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." What a great thought: "All things are new!" Throughout the Bible the Christian life is presented as the highest ideal in life. What greater life could there be than the one which conforms to Christ's life?

(Question):

A. According to Paul's statement in II Co. 5:17, where is newness of life obtained?

11. If you agree that Christianity is a great life (and surely you do or else you would not have committed your life to it), then you might ask, in what ways is it a great life? This question naturally leads to a discussion of rewards of being a faithful child of God.

(Question):

LESSON 10: REWARDS FOR THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

- A. Based on the actions of some Christians, the Christian life is dull and uneventful.

True or False

12. The words constitute the title of this lesson are significant: "Rewards for the Faithful Servant." The faithful servant is the obedient servant. To be obedient is to submit to and follow the teachings of Christ, and He said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). The unfaithful servant is not promised a desirable reward!

(Question):

- A. Who are promised desirable rewards?

13. The faithful servant or "new creature" (II Co. 5:17) is in Christ where all spiritual blessings are found. Paul said: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).

(Question):

- A. Where are all spiritual blessings found?

14. Previously you have learned that to be in Christ is to be in His church. Thus, if you are to enjoy spiritual blessings you must be in Christ or

in the church. Christianity is a rewarding life – a great life – because it affords the opportunity to serve God in a meaningful way.

(Question): Why is Christianity a great, rewarding life?

15. Now, let us note some of the rewards for you as a faithful servant of God. First, you can express your love and offer worship in a meaningful way. Christ loved you and died for you while you were yet a sinner; this is the greatest possible love. "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

(Question):

- A. Name one reward for being a faithful servant of God.

16. Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Since Christ exhibited the greatest love in that He died for us while we were sinners, what more appropriate way is there for us to show our love in return than by giving our bodies as living sacrifices (Romans 12:11). Thus you can show your love by living for Him as you promised to do when you committed your life to Him. Read John 14:15.

LESSON 10: REWARDS FOR THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

(Question):

A. You show appreciation for Christ's love by _____

17. The need to love is basic to man, as is the need to worship a higher being. Man was created for the purpose of glorifying God, this is his whole duty: "Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." (Eccl. 12:13). Thus, this two-fold reward permits you to fill some of your basic needs in life.

(Question):

A. Two basic needs of man are love and worship. **True or False**

18. To summarize, one great reward of the faithful servant is the privilege of expressing your love for God and Christ and worshipping in a meaningful way.

19. A second reward for you as a Christian is participation in Christian fellowship. Fellowship, according to Webster, means companionship. The beloved apostle John expressed this way: "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7).

(Question):

A. What is another important reward for the faithful servant?

20. Since you are "walking in the light" you have fellowship not only with God and Christ but also with other Christians. You have been cleansed by the same blood (Christ's), have the same manner of life, obey the same commands, have the same goals, ideals and aspirations; truly, this is the greatest fellowship known on earth.

(Question):

A. According to John, fellowship is conditioned on our

21. Fellowship will help you remain true and faithful to your commitment. Christian fellowship cannot be found anywhere but in the Lord's church ("in the light"). It is truly rewarding to associate with those of like mind or common interest.

(Question):

A. Fellowship will help you remain
_____.

22. Another reward for the faithful servant is the privilege to serve God. Almost all men have aspirations of being great; perhaps you are no exception. The way to be great, according to

LESSON 10: REWARDS FOR THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

Jesus, is to serve: "Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26 – 28).

(Question):

A. A third reward for the Christian is _____

23. True greatness, then, is dependent on service. Giving of yourself will make you happy; it will help you understand the real purpose and meaning of life.

(Question):

A. True greatness is dependent on _____

24. This principle of giving is aptly illustrated by the story, "There Are Two Seas," as told by Bruce Barton. "There are two seas in Palestine. One is fresh, and fish are in it. Splashes of green adorn its banks. Trees spread their branches over it, and stretch out their thirsty roots to sip of its healing water. Children play along its shores. The River Jordan makes this sea with sparkling water from the hills. Men build their houses near it, and birds their nest; and every kind of life is happier because it is there.

25. "The River Jordan flows on south into another sea. Here is no splash of fish, no fluttering of leaf, no song birds, no children's laughter. Travelers choose another route, unless on urgent business. The air hangs above its waters and neither man nor beast nor fowl will drink. What makes this mighty difference in these seas? Not the River Jordan. For every drop that flows into the first sea, another drop flows out; the giving and receiving go on in equal measure. The other sea is much shrewder, hoarding its income jealously. Every drop it gets, it keeps. The Sea of Galilee gives and lives. The other sea gives nothing. It is named the Dead Sea".

26. I believe this story illustrates very well the principle of giving to live. As we might say today speech, "Now that's livin'". If you could become as enthused about "really living" by giving yourself in service to God as others are about having a lot of fun (and thinking they are really living), you would be the greatest! When you cease giving, you cease living.

(Question):

A. The principle of giving and living is taught by the story of the two seas. **True or False**

27. Paul wrote to the Colossians regarding service as follows: "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

LESSON 10: REWARDS FOR THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:23, 24).

(Question):

A. How should we go about doing our work

28. Have you ever stopped to consider that the privilege of serving God is a rewarding experience? It will bring peace and contentment to your life.

(Question):

A. Our service is to be done for Christ.

True or False

29. A fourth reward for the faithful servant is the opportunity to share the Gospel with others. Have you, in the past, looked upon this as a reward for faithful service? Many Christians do not but you can and should look upon it as such.

(Question):

A. The opportunity to _____ is a fourth reward for the faithful servant.

30. In Lesson 9 you learned that the Christian graces, when added to your life, will cause you to be fruitful. This is the natural result in both the material and spiritual realms. I know of no

greater excitement, joy or feeling of satisfaction that can come to a Christian than a soul's response to Christ.

(Question):

A. What is the natural result of spiritual growth?

31. Truly the sharing of the gospel with others and their response to it is the greatest satisfaction and joy you can know as a Christian. If you have never experienced this feeling, you are missing a great blessing.

(Question):

A. What two events can bring the highest joy and satisfaction to the Christian?

32. This response to the Gospel is known as the rebirth (See John 3:1-5) in the case of the alien sinner or as restoration in the case of the fallen child of God (Gal. 6:1). When you show genuine love and concern for mankind, then you can't help but experience joy when you witness a response from either the child of God or the alien sinner.

(Question):

LESSON 10: REWARDS FOR THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

A. A response to the gospel is evidenced by a _____ or an _____

33. John said, "I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received commandment from the Father" (II John 4). The same rejoicing can take place today if you "walk in the truth".

(Question):

A. Why did John rejoice?

34. The last reward we shall discuss that will accrue to you as a faithful servant is salvation. This is the ultimate reward for the Christian. Doubtless, this is the goal of every man on earth, regardless of his age, condition or station in life. No one in his right mind desires to be lost.

(Question):

A. What is the ultimate reward for the Christian? _____

35. That this is true can be seen from the reaction of people when the great day of God's wrath is come. Notice the reaction which will occur (Rev. 6:15, 16): "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the

mountains; and said to the mountains and the rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the lamb."

36. Your salvation was a costly purchase; it cost the very life of the Son of God. In the previous lessons you have seen the need for a savior ever since man sinned in the Garden of Eden. Christ died that you could be reconciled to God.

A. What was the purpose of the crucifixion of Christ?

37. Salvation is within your grasp but it will not come easily. Peter indicated in I Peter 4:18 that the righteous will scarcely be saved: "And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

(Question):

A. Salvation will be easy for the faithful servant. **True or False**

38. Salvation, like all other spiritual blessings is found in Christ. Being in Christ, you are a child of God and an heir of God through Christ. Paul expressed it this way in Gal. 4:6, 7: "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

LESSON 10: REWARDS FOR THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

(Question):

A. Where can salvation be obtained?

39. Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mark 16:16). Further, speaking to his disciples, He said, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2, 3).

(Question):

A. Jesus is gone to _____ and He promised to _____

40. John said, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). So, the reward of salvation is for the faithful servant. Again, John said, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them" (Rev. 15:13).

(Question):

Salvation is conditional? **True or False**

41. Now, let us review the five rewards to faithful service as discussed in this lesson.

- A. Opportunity to express love for God and worship in a meaningful way.
- B. Opportunity to participate in Christian fellowship.
- C. Opportunity to serve God in a rewarding way.
- D. Opportunity to share the gospel with others.
- E. Opportunity to gain the ultimate reward – eternal salvation.

42. These rewards are conditional upon you remaining faithful. You can only be the friend of Jesus as long as you obey Him. Repeatedly in these lessons you have noted that God's blessings are supplied when obedience is evident. On the other hand, His wrath is incurred when disobedience occurs.

(Question):

- A. Rewards for the Christian are conditioned on faithfulness. **True or False**

43. The rewards for the faithful servant are certainly worthy of your effort – not that you can earn or merit any of them but that you can have

LESSON 10: REWARDS FOR THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

them imputed to you (or charged to your account) because of your obedience.

(Question):

A. Can you earn or merit salvation? **Yes or No**

44. You should live daily in preparation for the time when Christ will return and you along with everyone else will be required to give an account of your life. Consequently the journey preparation – preparation to meet God.

(Question):

A. The journey from the cradle to the grave is one of

45. Your preparation should be as complete as possible at all times because the time of the Lord's return is unknown (Matt. 24:36). In addition, you have no promise of tomorrow: Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" (Pro. 27:1). The tragedy of waiting for tomorrow is that the Lord may come today.

(Question):

A. When will the Lord return?

46. Peter, in writing about the end of the world said, "Seeing then that all these things shall be

dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?" (II Pet. 3:11). May you truly take the milk of the Word, exercise and use the knowledge you have to go on to meat.

(Question):

A. Peter stresses holy _____ and _____ in II Peter 3:11.

47. May God grant you a long and fruitful life in His service. Your fruit will only come if you grow **FROM MILK TO MEAT.**