

Matthew 6:1-4 **The Christian's Reward**

Introduction;

In this chapter we will see our Lord's teaching regarding members of the body of Christ being stewards of what God has entrusted to us. When we are faithful stewards we shall indeed reap spiritual rewards in heaven and physical rewards on the earth. Gal. 6:7 "whatever a man sows this he will also reap" Dr. Boice says this has often been misinterpreted to mean, "sowing wild oats", but it has nothing to do with sowing wild oats, but with giving money, in fact the whole last chapter of Galatians addresses this matter. Gal. 6:6 "let the one who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches." And in v.9, "Let us not lose heart in doing good (giving of a portion of our income) for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary..." Money spent in spreading the gospel and the building up of the body of Christ.

I. The Wrong Motivation In Giving

A. Theme:

1. Putting our righteousness into practice.
2. Three illustrations: Almsgiving, Praying and Fasting
3. Testing our faith – II Cor. 13:5; II Thess. 5:21

B. Balance in the Christian Life

1. The delicateness of the Christian life – Matt. 5:16 cf. 6:1
2. Secret service – Matt. 6:4,6,8
3. Two extremes: Segregation and Ostentation

C. In God Presence – v.1

1. Our Heavenly Father sees everything – Luke 16:15
2. Turn To: Psalm 139:7-12

D. The Legitimacy of rewards

1. Seeing God – Matt, 5:8
2. Seeing God's Glory – Exodus 33:11-23

II. The Right Motivation in Giving

A. Almsgiving

1. Sounding the trumpet
2. Loving the approval of men – John 12:42,43
3. Outwardly a Jew – Rom. 2:28,29
4. Announcing our giving to ourselves

B. What about tithing? (Christianity Today – periodical)

1. Sowing sparingly – II Cor. 9:6,7
2. Giving of ourselves – (William Barclay) II Cor. 8:5

Conclusion:

The primary motivation in almsgiving is not merely to help the poor or to pay the bills at the church but to give glorify God.

1. ***In this life - to care for the needs of the saints – Psalm 37:25; Phil. 4:19***
2. ***In the life – to invest our talents, (The Parable of the Talents) Turn To: Matthew 25:24-30***