

Dgroup Discussion Guide for August 13, 2017

Risk or Reward

Scripture: *Philippians 2*

Verses 1-2 reminds us that as a family, we are encouraged and reminded that we need to stand together, to be united in a singular goal, to work as a team in order for us to achieve the goals set for us by God.

Verses 3 to 8 teaches us that in order for us to achieve our goals we have to have the right ATTITUDE. The attitude taught and modeled for us by Jesus Himself. . . selflessness and humility. The attitude that is pleasing to God the Father because it is with this attitude that we will be able to live our life out in obedience to His perfect will.

We may ask. . . if we do this, do we get any reward?

Yes we do but first that our obedience should be fueled by faith Hebrews 11: 1 tells us ***Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.***

Why do we need faith? Verse 6 tells us ***And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*** God Himself assures us that He will reward our faith and our obedience. If we look at Philippians 2:9-11, we will see that God the Father rewarded Jesus for His obedience.

God the Father is a rewarder, and we have the freedom to choose between taking a risk or gaining a reward.

These are the rewards that are being prepared for us:

- 1 Peter 5: 1-4 says ***Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ² shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ³ nor yet as lording it over ^[a]those allotted to your charge, but ^[b]proving to be examples to the flock.⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading ^[c]crown of glory.***
- 2 Timothy 4:6-8 ***For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 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.***
- 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 ***For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.***
- 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 ***Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 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.***
- Revelation 2:8-10 ***The first and the last, who ^[a]was dead, and has come to life, says this:I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. ^[b]Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life***

Jesus, Himself set the example for us. He had an attitude of selflessness and humility . . . and with this attitude He was obedient to God the Father's will. It was because of this that God was pleased with Him and Jesus was then rewarded so that every knee will bend, every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord, and His name will be exalted.

Another reward that we should look forward to, is found in John 14:1-6 **Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In 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. ³If 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. ⁴And you know the way where I am going.** ⁵Thomas *said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" ⁶Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. This is our ultimate reward to dwell in the presence of God. For us to be in His presence. The beauty of heaven does not depend on the place or what its made of. It is not in the golden streets, of jeweled gates. The thing that makes heaven most beautiful is the presence of Jesus Christ.

We, sinners, do not deserve to be in the presence of Jesus Christ but because of God's mercy and grace, He has given us the reward of our salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

God wants us to live our life so that we are able to receive those crowns. There is though a warning 1 Corinthians 3:13-15, our work will be tested by fire, if what we do survives we will receive those crowns. But if they burn up then we will enter heaven by the skin of our teeth. The crowns are God's recognition of the work we have done during our lifetime, and although it will be more than sufficient for us to be home in heaven, but it wouldn't it be greater if God will acknowledge the work we have done.

What is the risk?

John 10:25-30 says **Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. ²⁶But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are ^{1b}one**

The risk we take is when we do not believe. When we claim to be Christians and yet refuse to obey God's commands. When we claim to be followers of Jesus and not emulate Jesus in our lives. We claim salvation through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and yet do not live out our salvation.

APPLICATION:

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

1. We have heard the Gospel, we know that we are sinners and are in need of a Savior. The question is: have we truly accepted Jesus Christ as LORD and SAVIOR of our lives? Do we live a life in obedience to God's commands.
2. How are we living out our salvation? Do our lives show the attitude the Jesus Himself has taught us in Philippians 2:3-8?
3. Are there still some things in our life that are RISKS to our reward of a crown of life, an eternity with Jesus?

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.