

Tears In Heaven?

ENOUGH ALREADY!

Why Do We Keep Talking About Unity?

1 Corinthians 1-4/ John 13:34-35/ Galatians 5:14-15/ Ephesians 4:1-3

THE PASSAGE

1 Corinthians 3-4

Spirituality Made Simple

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

- ❶ Obey **what you know**
Matthew 22:35-40/ John 14:15
- ❷ Get along **with others**
Matthew 22:36-40/ 1 Corinthians 13:1-3/ Luke 10:29-37

Will There Be Tears In Heaven?

1 Corinthians 3:10-15/ Revelation 7:17 & 21:4

- ❶ Our judgment will include both **rewards** and **loss**
Matthew 6:19-20/ 2 John 8/ 2 Corinthians 5:9-10 & Matthew 27:19
- ❷ We'll be judged by our **actions** and our **motives**
1 Corinthians 4:3-5/ Ephesians 2:10 & Matthew 7:21-27/ Matthew 6:1-20

Why It's So Stupid To Look Down On Or Criticize Other Christians

1 Corinthians 3:16 – 4:21/ Luke 18:9-14

- ❶ When we don't **get along** – we vandalize **God's temple**
- ❷ When we think we're superior – we **deceive ourselves**
- ❸ One day all of our own **closets** and **motives** will be exposed
- ❹ Everything we take pride in we ultimately **received from God**

Food for Thought

For the week of September 13, 2009

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. This week we learned that the judgment will actually be a time of both reward and loss. The rewards we receive will be directly related to what we do here on earth – our actions and our motives. Read the following Scriptures that highlight what things will bring a promised reward.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. ^[NIV]

Colossians 3:23-25

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ^[24] since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ^[25] Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism. ^[NIV]

Luke 6:32-36

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. ^[33] And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. ^[34] And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. ^[35] But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ^[36] Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ^[NIV]

Matthew 5:11-12

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ^[12] Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. ^[NIV]

How do these verses add, change or confirm your understanding of spiritual rewards and their pursuit?

2. Have you ever stopped to think about how important it is for us to simply get along with those who cross our path? Colossians 3:1-17 gives us insight into how we are to treat each other. Read the passage and make a list of behaviors and character traits that we are to “put to death” or get rid of.

Colossians 3:1-17

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ^[2] Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ^[3] For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ^[4] When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

^[5] Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ^[6] Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ^[7]

You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. [8] But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. [9] Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices [10] and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. [11] Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

[12] Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. [13] Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. [14] And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

[15] Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. [16] Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. [17] And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. ^[NIV]

How can we go beyond suppressing or controlling these things and totally wipe them out of our life? And how could “setting your mind on things above” play a part in answering this question?

Now make a list of the things Paul tells us to “put on” or start doing. What would it look like for you to “clothe yourself” like this and how would it impact your current relationships with others?

3. Romans 12 is another chapter that gives us a lot of practical teaching on how to use our gifts and treat one another. Read the passage and pay special attention to verses 3-8. How do you think pride and looking down on others damages God’s family?

Romans 12:1-21

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. [2] Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

[3] For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. [4] Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, [5] so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. [6] We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. [7] If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; [8] if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

[9] Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. [10] Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. [11] Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. [12] Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. [13]

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

[14] Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. [15] Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. [16] Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

[17] Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. [18] If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. [19] Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. [20] On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

[21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. ^[NIV]

What does it look like to see yourself with "sober judgment"?