

good things his children have done. All Christian behaviour must be done with the right motive to receive a reward (1Corinthians 4:5).

Kent Crockett gives a list of some things God will reward on the day of Christ, if these deeds are performed with love, kindness, and a pure heart toward God.

1. Witnessing to someone about Jesus (1Corinthians 9:16-17)
2. Leading someone to salvation (Proverbs 11:30)
3. Being martyred for Christ (Hebrews 11:37)
4. Seeking God diligently (Hebrews 11:6)
5. Giving money for God's work (Matthew 6:3-4)
6. Praying (Matthew 6:6)
7. Fasting (Matthew 6:17-18)
8. Budgeting money wisely (Luke 16:11-12)
9. Faithfully serving the Lord in ministry (Luke 19:17)
10. Helping others (Luke 6:35)
11. Loving those who don't love you (Matthew 5:46)
12. Treating others with honour (Matthew 10:41)
13. Being a godly spouse and parent (1Peter 3:3-7)
14. Faithfulness in earthly jobs (Colossians 3:22-24)
15. Doing good deeds (Ephesians 6:7-8)
16. Submitting with respect to unreasonable employers (1Peter 2:18-20)
17. Being persecuted for Jesus sake (Luke 6:22-23)
18. Having a servant's attitude (Mark 10:43-45)
19. Humbling ourselves (Matthew 18:4)
20. Doing little things for others (Matthew 10:42)
21. Helping the poor (Proverbs 19:17)
22. Visiting widows and orphans (James 1:27)
23. Living righteously (Proverbs 11:31)
24. Following Jesus (Matthew 19:29)
25. Obeying God's Word (Ephesians 4-6)

You probably won't make any headlines in earth's newspapers if you do the things listed above. But that's okay. Earth's newspapers are used to wrap dead fish. Heaven's Headlines will be remembered forever. © [The above list is an excerpt from "Making Today Count for Eternity" (Multnomah Publishers, 2001) by Kent Crockett ]

This is not meant to be an exhaustive list. All believers who perform any task out of a heart

of love for Jesus, who serve faithfully, with integrity and genuine motives will receive rewards. Only God can decide what the reward will be (Hebrews 6:10).

#### Q. Should we seek Rewards?

**A. Yes!** The Bible emphasises the fact that believers who live a Christlike life will receive rewards for what they have done (2Corinthians 5:10). A key verse that answers the question of living with rewards in mind, is *Matthew 6:20*, where Jesus said "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven". This verse alone teaches us to live with heavenly rewards in mind.

In fact all the promises of God to give rewards would not make sense, if there was no incentive for Christian living. The main point is that true motives will be evaluated and God will only reward what is genuine (Philippians 4:8).

**The real question is this** "How are you living your life right now and what rewards will you have in heaven?" We are never too old to make an effort to earn some heavenly rewards.

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So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.  
- John 8:36  
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## Rewards In Heaven

1Corinthians 3:14



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# Rewards In Heaven

1Corinthians 3:14

We live in a world of free enterprise with a multitude of incentives for work well done. Almost all businesses offer some form of reward card. Someone asked me recently, "When we get to heaven, will God give us a 'Reward Card' to use all over his worlds and universes?" This is the current mindset, after all, Woolworths, Coles, Myers and DJ's have 'Rewards and Gift Cards'.

The Bible talks about heavenly rewards for those who know and love Jesus and who have lived in obedience to God's word. We are not talking about rewards for trying to get to heaven. No one can arrive in heaven by doing good deeds. Heaven is not earned, but is a free gift to all who receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord (John 1:12-13, Ephesians 2:8-9).

God's rewards will be handed out to genuine believers after they are in heaven, standing before Christ (Romans 14:10-12; 1Corinthians 3:10-15; 2Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 6:8, Colossians 3:23-25).

The question that sincere believers ask is this: "What kind of rewards will we get in heaven?"

The Bible provides some help in answering this question. Let's use the Q&A format.

## Q. Does the Bible speak of Rewards?

**A. Yes!** In the Bible, God promises rewards to those who are his children by faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus said he will reward them when he comes - "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done." (Revelation 22:12). The 'everyone' is referring to those who are true Christians (cp. Matthew 5:12; 6:1-18; 16:27; 1Corinthians 3:8,14; Ephesians 6:8; Colossians 3:24-25; James 1:12; 1Peter 5:4;

2John 4:8).

## Q. Who will receive the Good Rewards?

**A.** Only saved Christians. When the Lord returns at the Rapture (1Thessalonians 4:17), he will take to heaven all those who belong to him. They will be changed (1Corinthians 15:51-54) and receive their inheritance in heaven. (1Peter 1:4). After arriving in heaven, they will receive rewards for how they have lived as Christians on earth, "...at that time each will receive his reward and praise from God" (1Corinthians 4:5).

## Q. Why will Rewards be given?

**A.** We only have to look at the life of Jesus to catch the reason God will reward his own. "He [Jesus] was in the world, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him" (John 1:10-11). He was despised and rejected by the world (Isaiah 53:3). They hated him without a reason (John 15:25).

God knew that all who believed in Jesus and followed him would be severely persecuted by the unbelieving world. Jesus said, "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven" (Matthew 5:11,12).

It is not easy to be a Christian in a non-Christian world, but God will reward his own for the difficulties they endured in following Christ and their faithfulness to him (1Corinthians 4:17).

## Q. What kind of Rewards are given?

**A.** The Bible speaks of five crowns the Lord will award in heaven on 'that day'.

**1. The Crown of Life** - given for faithfulness to Christ in persecution or martyrdom. "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the

*crown of life that God has promised to those who love him*" (James 1:12 & Revelation 2:10).

**2. The Incorruptible Crown** - given for determination, discipline and victory in the Christian life. "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the [Olympic] games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever" - (1Corinthians 9:24-25).

**3. The Crown of Glory** - given for faithfully representing Christ in a position of spiritual leadership (1Peter 5:1-4). "When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away" (1 Peter 5:1-4).

**4. The Crown of Righteousness** - given for purity of life and being ready to meet Christ at his return. "The time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store 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 longed for his appearing" (2Timothy 4:6-8).

**5. The Crown of Rejoicing** - given for pouring oneself into others in evangelism and discipleship. "For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?" (1Thessalonians 2:19). "My brothers, you whom I love and long for, you are my joy and crown" (Philippians 4:1).

These are all graciously given by the Lord Jesus, and earned through the faithful efforts of the believer.

Though the Bible does not specifically define all the rewards, God promises to reward the