Faith Matters

TOP

Daily Devotional, Thursday, October 19, 2017 - The Reward of the Believer

OCTOBER 19TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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1 Corinthians 3:6-15

Our God-given purpose is to glorify our heavenly Father. Ephesians 2:10sheds light on the means by which we accomplish this: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."

As believers, we are responsible to do God's work. One day, we will stand before the judgment seat of Christ and be held accountable for our service. "Judgment" can be a daunting term. Remember, though, that Jesus redeemed us by His death and resurrection and paid the penalty for our sins. He took our punishment, and we no longer face condemnation (Rom. 8:1). Christ's judgment for Christians determines His rewards for each believer.

During this evaluation, God will test our actions. Today's Scripture passage likens this to proving the quality of a substance through fire (1 Corinthians 3:12-15). Once the fire burns away impure motives and worthless tasks, the Lord will give recompense for that which remains.

From the outside, we may look as if we're living obediently, striving to honor Jesus. So many tasks appear selfless and honorable, yet underneath the noble appearance, there can be ugly motives. We often deceive even ourselves about the reason for our actions. Since our desire

should be to please Christ, we can ask Him to purify and change our hearts.

Consider your actions over the past few days. How much time and energy did you spend serving Christ for His glory? This can include any area of involvement—not just efforts related to church. Ask God to reveal whatever is driven by a selfish motive and needs to be brought under His authority.

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