

The Rewards of Humility

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*The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord is riches,
and honor, and life. - Prov. 22:4*

What God Requires of Man

Humility does not come naturally to people. The world teaches us that to succeed, we need to be aggressive, take advantage of every situation, and maybe take advantage of others to get to the top. The world's standard for success is how much wealth you can accumulate, regardless of what it may do to yourself or others. To some, it is life-consuming, but not so much for others. What we need to be aware of is what true success looks like in the eyes of God.

Micah explains what God requires for true success. *"He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" - Mic. 6:8.* Acting in a just manner with others, showing mercy and being humble, will bring us the reward of God. That reward according to Proverbs 22:4 is riches, honor, and life.

Riches

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." - Matt. 6:21

We should never compare God's reward of promised riches with material wealth. Both the rich and the poor are people created by God (Prov. 22:2). Both can be humble, but their financial status may not always be the same. It may never change as they try to be humble servants of God. Knowing this, what are the promised riches of God?

Jesus warned mankind to be aware of all forms of covetousness and to avoid them at all cost. Covetousness may give you material wealth, but it will never give you the promised wealth of God. Riches we may have gained by worldly standards does not determine the value of a man's life (Lk. 12:15). Whether it be gold and silver, stocks and bonds or valuable art, all of this can be taken from us quickly by thieves, or economic collapse. When that happens, we must ask ourselves, what is our life worth? For the worldly man it is life ending, but for the Christian it is just a situation that brings us closer to God for our reliance (Lk. 18:18-29).

We must be careful where we do place our reliance of trust because that is where our heart will be (Matt. 6:20-21). Jesus told us to lay our treasures up in heaven, and we do that by *"doing justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" Mic. 6:8.* When we conduct ourselves in this manner with both our fellow man and God, then

God's promised riches to us will be laid up in heaven. Our attitude, conduct and convictions can work either for us, or against us.

Honor

"...If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him." - Jn. 12:26

Honor is the splendor and glory that the world can never give. People have sought to attain power and control over nations so that they could enjoy the honor and glory of mankind. History has remembered a few, but most of them have been forgotten.

The honor that the Lord gives us is both temporal and eternal. Great men like David are held with high regard among men because of their integrity and trustworthiness (1 Sam. 22:14). However, Jesus said that we should not seek honor from men, but only that which comes from God (Jn. 5:44). How can we believe in God if all we seek is the honor and glory of men? *Proverbs says, "A man's pride brings him low, but one of lowly spirit gains honor."* - (Prov. 29:23).

Servants of Christ realize the honor that we want bestowed upon us is from our Heavenly Father. Because it is enduring and eternal and never be forgotten (Prov. 8:18; Rom. 2:7). If we serve Christ, then the Father will honor us. (Jn. 12:26)

Life

"to those who by perseverance in good works seek glory and honor and immortality – everlasting life." - Rom. 2:7.

God has promised us eternal life. In order to obtain it, we must persevere and work towards that goal by doing good works while seeking the glory and honor of God. Building a firm foundation on Christ is essential to this attainment and this requires faith, obedience and full commitment to His will. If we love God, we will demonstrate that love by living by His commandments (1 Jn. 1:6). We must not be half-hearted, or seek to do "just enough". This is not perseverance or showing true love.

With our faith and confidence in His promises, we must build ourselves up to be a holy temple of God (1 Cor. 6:19). By doing so, Christ will live within us (Gal. 2:20) and when the world looks at us, they will see God's glory through our perfect love, mercy and humility. They will then glorify God, who is in heaven (Matt.5:16).

Paul wrote to Timothy to tell all to "*lay up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold of that which is truly life.*" - 1 Tim. 6:19. It takes work and dedication, but remember that we have God's assurance of riches, honor, and life eternal.

*“Riches and honor are with me; Yea, durable riches and righteousness.” - Prov.
8:18*

*“For the Lord takes pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with
salvation.” - Ps. 149:4*