

END TIMES

What You Should Know What You Can Do

A Bible Study with Debbie Taylor Williams



End Times

Session 1	The Reasons for End Time Prophecies
Session 2	The Reliability of Prophecy
Session 3	The Reality of the Rapture
Session 4	The Revealing of End Time Events
Session 5	The Rewards for Faithful Living

Watch the accompanying videos for *End Times* at www.debbietaylorwilliams.com/

The written and video material is humbly shared with you not as one who is a scholar of eschatology nor as one intent on defending a certain position. Rather, I invite you to join me in reading the scriptures with fresh eyes and childlike wonder, praying the Lord enlighten the eyes of our heart.

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe." Ephesians 1:18-19

Heaven - Reward Enough?

Have you heard sermons on heaven and the rewards or crowns given to Christians? You've certainly heard about the new heaven and new earth and new Jerusalem. They are going to be amazing! Our eyes will feast as never before on God, Who is going to live among us just like Adam and Eve experienced. He, our God, is going to wipe away every tear from our eyes. There will be no death, no mourning. No crying. No pain. The New Jerusalem is described as being filled with the brilliance of God. It is huge - a 1500 mile wide, 1500 mile long, and 1500 mile high cube city. Can you imagine the variety of activity going on in the glorious New Jerusalem? Yes, activity! Revelation 21:24 says "the nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it."

End Times: What You Should Know

Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me,
to render to every man according to what he has done.¹
Jesus Christ

Our eternal state with the Lord is going to be joyous! If we've wondered what we would do for eternity and if we'd be bored, we can rest assured that will not be the case.

1. Think about the things that bring you the most joy. What work or activity fulfills you? What do you most enjoy learning? With whom do you enjoy spending time? What do you wish you were skilled or gifted to do? With whom in heaven are you looking forward to visiting? What questions do you want answered? Record what you most look forward to in eternal life.

2. There will be innumerable blessings in eternal glory. Record the two mentioned in Revelation 19:9 and 22:14.

¹ Revelation 22:12

"Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."
Revelation 19:9

"Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city." Revelation 22:14

We will experience blessings beyond imagination in the presence of Christ.

It will be a time of joy and celebration! Meditate on the following:

"I am blessed. I am invited to eat from the tree of life forbidden Adam and Eve. I will live in the new Paradise in divine perfection with God and others.

Although you may feel that your eternal state in heaven is enough of a gift, that being with Jesus and family and friends is more than enough, that living with no fear of death and no sin is enough, that your glorious eternal state is more than enough, our Lord tells us He has rewards for faithful followers. Let's review the difference in the gift of salvation and rewards for faithful service.

3. Read Ephesians 2:8-10 below then check the correct answers.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

How were you saved?

By my works.

By God's grace.

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

For what purpose were you created in Christ Jesus?

I was created for good works that God prepared for me to do (walk in).

I was created to make a name for myself and accumulate things on earth.

Unfortunately, some Christians don't take Ephesians 2:10 seriously. They don't experience the joy of doing the good works God prepared for them.

4. Read the parable Jesus told in Matthew 25:14-28. What did the servant experience who used what was entrusted to him?

- Joy
- More talents
- Weeping
- Pain

When we think about end times, we are wise to think beyond this life and to think about eternity. Will there be different rewards for people based on how they lived? Yes. Will there be rewards for people who used their spiritual gifts? Yes. Circle the words "reward," "no reward," "lose his reward," "reward is great," "not lose his reward," "reward will be great" in the following teachings of Jesus.

"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets before you." Matthew 5:11-12

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 6:1

"...so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you." Matthew 6:4

"But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you." Matthew 6:6

"...so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you." Matthew 6:18

"He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward." Matthew 10:41

"And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward." Matthew 10:42

"Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets." Luke 6:23

"But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men." Luke 6:35

Jesus could not be more clear. He is giving rewards to believers on the basis of what they do for Him and His kingdom. There will be some who lose a reward. Some will have no reward. Others will have a reward. Still others will receive great rewards.

How is it decided which, what, and how many rewards we get? Who is the Judge? How are we judged? What are the rewards? The Bible answers our questions.

Who Will Judge Us

5. Based on 2 Corinthians 5:10 who is our Judge?

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:10

6. On the basis of Romans 14:12, who is judged? Believers, unbelievers, or both?

"So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God." Romans 14:12

7. Who does God reward? Hebrew 11:6

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. Hebrews 11:6

8. On the basis of Hebrews 9:17 is it a sure thing you will be judged?

“It is appointed for men once to die and after this the judgment.” Hebrews 9:27

9. “What will be the basis for Christ’s judgment?” we may wonder. Check the following for which we have opportunities to receive rewards.

I will be judged for:

- What I have done. Revelation 22:12 NIV
- My deeds. Matthew 16:27, Ephesians 2:10, 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 3:8, 1 Peter 4:5
- My words. Matthew 12:36
- My work. Ruth 2:12
- My thoughts. Hebrews 4:12
- My intentions. Hebrews 4:12
- My motives. 1 Corinthians 4:5
- My secrets. Romans 2:16
- My faithful stewardship of gifts. Matthew 25:14-30, 1 Corinthians 4:1-4
- My confidence. Hebrews 10:35
- My use of money. Matthew 6:1-4, 2 Timothy 6:17-19, Psalm 90:12
- My focus and use of time. Colossians 3:2, Philippians 3:12-14, 2 Timothy 2:4
- My hospitality to strangers. Luke 14:12-14

10. Check the following you want to receive.

- A full reward. “Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a **full reward.**” 2 John 1:8
- Great reward - “But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your **reward** will be **great**, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men*. Luke 6:35

_____ Loss of reward. "If any man's work is burned up, he shall **suffer loss**; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire." 1 Corinthians 3:15

11. How can we be sure we will be judged fairly? Use the following words to fill in the blanks about Jesus, our Judge.

righteous, impartial, fair, thorough, tests the quality, rewards

- a. Jesus is a _____ judge. 2 Timothy 4:8
- b. Jesus is an _____ judge. Romans 2:11, James 3:1
- c. Jesus is a _____ judge. Matthew 20:1-16
- d. Jesus is a _____ judge. Hebrews 4:13
- e. Jesus _____ of our deeds, words, thoughts, intentions, and secrets by fire and _____ what remains. 1 Corinthians 3:13
12. Our thoughts, words, and works being judged by fire may seem daunting. However, won't it be wonderful to go into eternity free of everything except the gold and silver of what we did for Christ and His glory? What are your thoughts?

Some Christians will enter heaven with little to show for what they did for Christ. Others will enter heaven with an abundance. Some will suffer loss of rewards. Others will receive great rewards.

If you are thinking that you've wasted days not living for Christ, it's not too late to begin living for His purposes. Begin today setting your mind on the things above. Begin walking in the good works God prepared for you to do.

13. Fill in the following blanks with the words: work, works.

"We must _____ the _____
of Him who sent me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work."
John 9:4

Notice how Jesus said "we" in the above verse. "We must work the works of God who sent Jesus." Personalize that sentence by writing "I" in the verse.

_____ must work the works of God who sent Jesus as long as it it day.

In other words, as long as we are on earth, we are to be living for Christ and doing that to which He calls us.

14. Jesus wants us to experience fullness of joy and a full reward. The following crowns are spoken of being given to believers. Check the ones that most thrill you.

_____ **Victor's Imperishable, Incorruptible Crown**

"Everyone who competes in the 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."
1 Corinthians 9:25 NIV

This crown is for believers who discipline themselves for the purpose of godliness; who practice self-discipline and self-control so they can faithfully serve Christ.

_____ **Crown of Righteousness**

"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." 2 Timothy 4:7-8

This crown is for those who eagerly look for the Lord's return and live a righteous life in view of it. Romans 6:1-4

_____ **Crown of Joy**

"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? Indeed, you are our glory and joy." 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 NIV

This crown is for people who purposefully use the gifts Christ has entrusted to them to lead people to Christ. Joy is the reward for obeying the Great Commission and seeing people come to salvation. (Matthew 25:14-28, 28:18-20)

___ **Crown of Life**

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial; (endures temptation) for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. James 1:12

This crown is for people who persevere under the trials of life, who endure and triumph over temptations.

___ **Crown of Glory**

“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.” 1 Peter 5:1-4

This crown is given to people who faithfully shepherd and watch over Christ’s sheep as an example to them.

End Times: What You Can Do

1. Believe God and Seek Him in Faith

“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.” Hebrews 11:6

2. Use Your Time to Build Your Life On Christ and Serve Him

“According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.” 1 Corinthians 3:10

3. Set Your Mind on the Things Above

“Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.”
Colossians 3:2

4. Work Heartily Serving the Lord

“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.” Colossians 3:23-24

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE:

1. What golden nugget or Scripture do you want to remember from the video?

2. How will what you learned through the study impact your life and relationship with others?

Write a prayer to your Heavenly Father asking Him to show you the good works He prepared for you to walk in. Ask Him to give you eyes of compassion for the unsaved and opportunities to visit with them about their eternal security.

Digging Deeper

Record thoughts, prayers, or verses you want to study, memorize, or pray over in your Prayers of my Heart journal.

Please share your comments about the study, what you are learning, and how it is impacting you on the End Times Online Bible Study page at www.debbietaylorwilliams.com/endtimes.



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Questions? We're here to help. Contact us at debbie@debbietaylorwilliams.com.