

# PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

*For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)*

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## Work Assignments

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### Introduction

As I was working on my last teaching lesson that was posted on the website ([Salvation of the Soul](#)), I was stuck by something that enlightened my understand about the work that the Lord has called us to do. This Present Truth Teaching Letter is dedicated to sharing this understanding with you.

### Reward for Work

It is clear from the Scriptures that our rewards that we receive from the Lord at His return are based entirely on our works; that is, the work that we have done for the Lord in our present life.

**1 Corinthians 3:8 NASB** Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

**1 Corinthians 3:13-15 NASB (13)** each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. **(14)** If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. **(15)** If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

**1 Peter 1:17 NASB** If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *on earth*;

**Revelation 19:8 NASB** It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

None of these verses are talking about salvation. We are not saved by any of our works. We are saved by the blood of Jesus and His righteousness. These verses are dealing with rewards, which appear to be based exclusively on works.

It has bothered me a little bit in thinking about this that it would appear that not everyone has the same opportunity to do work for the Lord. Many times our mentality have been that only those

who are in some form of full time ministry can do the work of the Lord. However, our God is righteous and just. All people have equal opportunity before Him. Yet, the Scriptures tell of work that is already prepared for us of us.

[Ephesians 2:10 NASB](#) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

If God has prepared the work and has chosen us for it, then what is our part that we should receive a reward for doing what has been prepared and chosen for us to do? Would it not seem that the reward would be based on whether or not the work was done and the amount of time devoted to doing it? And would it not seem that the work would vary in scope for each one and, therefore, the reward vary also. Somehow, this does not seem right for our reward would only be based on doing the work already chosen for us by God and the size of the work done that He has chosen us to do. This would seem to reduce any aspect of our being able to receive reward for doing the work because *it is our duty to do the work anyway*. There must be something about this that we don't understand.

## The Example of Jesus' Work

As always our example on how to behave properly is shown to us by and through Jesus, our Lord. How Jesus related to the work of God shows us how we should relate to the work of God.

[John 4:34 NASB](#) Jesus \*said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.

Jesus said that his food, that which sustains Him, is to do the will of the Father and to accomplish His work. As the Apostle of the Father, Jesus was sent by the Father with a job to accomplish. [*This is the definition of an apostle. See "[Straight Talk About Apostles](#)" for more on this.*] Jesus lived His life in such a way as to do all that the Father had appointed to Him.

[John 17:4 NASB](#) "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.

Jesus said these words in His prayer to the Father. The question for us is how was He able to accomplish the work given to Him? The secret of His ability to do the work is given to us by the Lord's own words.

[Luke 22:41-42 NASB](#) And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and *began* to pray, (42) saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."

The work of the Father could only be accomplished by Jesus setting aside His will and desires and allowing the Father's will and desires to be done through Him. If we want to do the work that has been prepared for us, we must do the same thing as Jesus and lay aside our will for His will.

## Co-workers with God

The Scriptures tell us that we are co-workers; that is, fellow workers, with God to accomplish His work.

[1 Corinthians 3:9 NASB](#) For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's

building.

We don't become co-workers with God until we have truly learned to do His will even at the expense of our own desires. How is this done? Again, Jesus tells us.

**Matthew 16:24 NASB** Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

It is the measure of how much we have denied ourselves and died to self that determines if we are able to fulfill God's calling and accomplish the work prepared for us.

## **Basis for Reward**

This is what qualifies us for reward. Not how much of the work prepared for us that we have accomplished but how much we have denied ourselves for the Lord's sake and prepared ourselves to do His will. This gives everyone equal opportunity before the Lord. It doesn't matter what type of circumstances we find ourselves in or what physical abilities or natural opportunities we have. It is simply a matter of how much we have yielded ourselves to the desires of the Lord.

Until we have denied ourselves and taken up our cross we are unable, *we cannot*, accomplish any of the work of the Lord. Since this is the requirement before any work can be done, it becomes the yardstick to measure our qualification to do the work and, therefore, the yardstick for our reward.

If we are not actively functioning as a co-worker with the Lord, then the work that is being done is our work and not His. If we are working without being a co-worker with Him, then we are not doing His work because He is only a co-worker with those who are doing what He wants done.

It is only His will that accomplishes His work. We must deny our will in order that His will is done.

Therefore the basis of our reward is

- NOT based on our physical abilities;
- NOT based on our mental abilities;
- NOT based on our education;
- NOT based on our social status;
- NOT based on our wealth or poverty;
- NOT based on our knowledge of religious dogma;
- NOT based on anything that speaks of man or man's own abilities.

But rather our own willingness to deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Him wherever He may lead and to do whatever He desires regardless of the personal cost to us in this world.

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