

Basic Discipleship

A Course On New Testament Discipleship

Topic #8

III. We Need to Invest in Eternity By Living With an Eternal Outlook

The Bible teaches that there are three kinds of judgments that we face as true Christians. If we have truly met Christ—in the past we have been judged as sinners, in the present we are being judged as sons, and in the future, we will be judged as servants. If you have been saved, your judgment as a sinner is already _____ when Jesus died for you on Golgotha. To those who have received His gift of salvation He promises us, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life” (John 5:24). If you repented and placed your faith in Jesus Christ who died a substitutionary death to forgive you and to change you — then God promises you will _____ have to face **The Great White Throne Judgment** with the lost people of all time (Revelation 20:11-15).

However, while I have “**in the past**” been judged as a “**sinner**” right now “**in the present**” I am being judged as a “**son**” because there is a judgment that we face as _____. Day-by-day, God judges His children who have been born-again, either in an **instructive way** or in a **corrective way**. The Bible in Hebrews 12:5&6 saying, “**and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, “MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”** God administers His ‘**corrective discipline**’ like in a woodshed and His ‘**instructive discipline**’ like on the _____ training to every child of God. Please understand, when He chastises us as “**sons**” — God is not trying to get _____ **with us**. God is simply **correcting us** for our good and for His _____ (Deuteronomy 8:5; Psalm 119:67; Proverbs 3:11-12; 1 Corinthians 11:30-31; Revelation 3:19). Yet, the Bible also teaches that “**in the future**” we will be judged as “**servants**.” Just as “**The Great White Throne Judgment**” is only for the _____, even so “**the judgment seat of Christ**” is only for the _____. And as we have studied previously in this section, the judgment of the just does not determine whether you go to Heaven or Hell, but it is God’s way of setting your life in review so that He might justly **reward** you accordingly for all of eternity. And so, it is very important that we understand on what basis God will reward us. It is important to _____, “**What are the criteria that God will use when He evaluates our service for Him? What makes for “gold, silver, or precious stones” verses “wood, hay, or straw?”**” In this section, we examine in detail the three principal criteria that God will use.

A. God will evaluate what we do for Him.

Though it is difficult to know precisely what makes up a “**golden**” work verses a “**straw**” work, Scripture does inform us of certain general areas — in which _____ is particularly interested. While this is not a complete list—we will focus on _____ areas—that are highlighted in the New Testament concerning those things that God has called us to do. These seven areas of obedience will be taken into consideration when we _____ the Lord in Heaven.

#1. We know that God will reward his people for the manner in which we treat others.

40 “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.
41 “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. 42 “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” (Mt. 10:40–42).

1. On the occasion—Jesus was sending out His twelve apostles to carry His message to the people of Israel (Matthew 10:5-6)—and eventually to all the nations of the world (Matthew 28:18-20)—they preached & performed miracles in His _____.
2. It was on this context—that Jesus promised those who would receive ___ disciples, “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” (Mt. 10:42).
3. Jesus taught that they would represent Him so completely — that any person who receives an apostle will be receiving both Him & the Father who sent Him (10:40), such that they will _____ in some of the very rewards to be given to the apostles.
4. The implication is that those who serve His disciples, described here as ‘little ones’ will be rewarded—not because they are working for their salvation—but because they have received His grace by believing in Jesus & want ___ mission to succeed.
5. In a hot dry climate, if available “even a cup of cold water” is not expensive, such that even a very poor person could _____ the cause by caring for His messengers.
6. Those who faithfully serve the Lord *by receiving* God’s these apostles, here likened to “a prophet” (10:41), since they were the entrusted preachers of God’s message, will in turn be rewarded by Jesus who _____ very careful & detailed records.
7. *This truth* that God _____ all that we do is also *underscored* in the Book of Hebrews:

“For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints” (Hebrews 6:10).

8. For God “to forget your work” would mean that He would have to deny His own nature—and the Bible is _____ that “He cannot deny Himself” (2 Timothy 2:13).

11 It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; 12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself (2 Timothy 2:11-13).

9. The writer is presenting a **negative opposite** that God would be “**unjust**” in _____ to present a **positive truth** — for to even entertain that God is “**not unjust**” would be an understatement—because God in His person is eminently “**just**” (Dt. 32:4):

4 “**The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.**”

10. He speaks here in verse ten of their “**work and the love you have shown**” in order to emphasize the difference between doing a task in the Spirit or in the _____.

11. There are Christians — who do service because they have to — and there are Christians — who do their service for God — because they _____ to.

12. Jesus plainly taught—that when you serve the saints of God—you are serving _____ Himself for He said, “**Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me**” (Matthew 25:40).

13. Contextually, He addresses *the way Gentiles will treat Jews* during the Tribulation, but the principle applies—in helping us to put _____ service—into perspective.

14. It is true that sometimes—we may find ourselves—not wanting to do something, and so instead of serving in a _____ of **love**, we serve out of a sense of obligation.

15. And if or when that becomes — the driving motive in your life — it is most often indicative — of a heart that is out of fellowship — with the _____.

16. Sometimes the tasks that you are called on to do are not always your favorite thing to do & so—some love to ‘**serve in the nursery**’ & others—love to hang around and ‘**do the clean-up**’ after having a 1,000 people for a picnic—while others prefer ____.

17. Sometimes—we just need to stop and put it in perspective—we need to remember that when we serve “**the saints**” we are serving the Lord—this _____ us persistence.

18. Many of those described in Hebrews 6—did indeed love God & they still had warm hearts such that their _____ to “**the saints**” was a persistent work—as evidenced by their “**having ministered and in still ministering to the saints**” (Hebrews 6:10).

19. Sadly, there are a lot of believers who start a task, they just never finish it because _____ grow **weary of the work** — typically because they grow — **weary of people**.

20. And usually, when you find yourself growing “**weary of people**” it is only because you have grown “**weary of God**” — and so when your “**love of God**” is low then you will soon discover that your “**love of people**” to serve them is _____.

4 ‘But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 ‘Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent (Revelation 2:4–5).

21. A love for God will always expresses itself in service for “**the saints**” & that service is never forgotten by God & will be rewarded by Him at the judgment of the _____.
22. As we consider the promised reward of Hebrews 6:10, it is important to _____ that all the “**work**” which they had done was “**shown toward His name**” meaning they were not motivated by the reward but they were motivated by “**His name**” (6:10).

“For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints” (Hebrews 6:10).

23. In the Bible the ‘**name**’ of God stands for His person—meaning these saints were motivated *literally* “**toward His name**” because they were serving for God’s _____.
24. It is important to know that service for Christ, that is done entirely for the glory of God will not be overlooked—because if the truth were known most of God’s people serve in obscurity—without any limelight behind the scenes—yet God misses _____.
25. Even those Christians whom you see serve in a more public and prominent way, if they are doing anything worthwhile for God—most of their labor that makes them who they are — and what they actually do — is never _____ by people.
26. It is the hidden life—that makes the public life—worthy of the kind of service that God will truly reward & He—in His perfect _____ will never “**forget**” that work.
27. When no one says to you—that you are doing a “**really good job**” & when no one says “**thank you**”—but you keep doing it because you are doing it for the sake of “**His name**” — God in His justice sees & takes notice & remembers that _____.
28. God does not want His serious warning found in Hebrews 6:6—of getting stuck in immaturity in — to obscure the opposite aspect — of the same _____.
29. If God’s justice is as such that the believer’s ‘**spiritual rebellion**’ cannot be ignored, then it is equally _____ that God’s justice is as such that our ‘**spiritual service**’ and devotion and faithfulness to God’s people for God’s glory cannot be overlooked.

30. Sadly—Hebrews 6 is used by some—to falsely teach that we can lose our salvation, which in itself is contradictory—not only the rest of the *New Testament* but to what the author of Hebrews has recorded concerning _____ security (7:25; 10:14; 13:5).
31. Remember, one of the key principles in soundly interpreting the Bible is _____, and that truth is often ignored in this chapter leading people to false conclusions.
32. The focus of Hebrews 6 is ___ about salvation—but our spiritual “**maturity**” & the rewards that will someday accompany that maturity—and so the chapter begins:

1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity . . .

33. God through the writer is urging them to go beyond “**the elementary teachings about the Christ, and to press on to maturity**” — he wants them to _____ up!
34. A _____ to mature has implications concerning rewards—and so he writes:

7 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and produces vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; 8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned. 9 But, beloved, we are convinced of better things regarding you, and things that accompany salvation, even though we are speaking in this way. 10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, by having served and by still serving the saints (Hebrews 6:7–10).

35. This illustration of a field reminds us of a similar point made by the Apostle Paul when at—the judgment seat of Christ—our works are tested with ____.
36. We have already seen—that it is ___ the believer who is burned or punished at this judgment—but it is one’s useless **works** that are consumed by **fire** (1 Cor. 3:10-15).
37. This writer uses similar imagery to underscore that a field proves its worth by bearing fruit—in the same way we make spiritual progress as we bear _____.
38. Paul tells the Corinthians that — “**you are God’s field**” (1 Cor. 3:9) even so here in Hebrews 6 it is the “**thorns and briars**” are “**burned**” not the persons (6:7) because like Paul — this writer is speaking of — the possibility of losing one’s _____:

8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.

39. He is not talking about the **fire** of Hell—but the fire of “**the judgment seat of Christ**” — where every work — will be _____ with “**fire.**”

12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 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 Corinthians 3:12–15).

40. Some Christians live their whole lives in immaturity because of compromise, which many of these Hebrew believers did—in order to avoid hostility—with the _____.

41. Their desire for peace with unbelieving Jews & their desire to be liked—only led to compromise such that — instead of producing — mature fruit (Hebrews 6:1, 9), their works were like “**ground**” that bears “**thorns and thistles**” to be _____.

42. Because they persisted in immaturity, they were in danger of God shelving them, where they would no longer store up—eternal treasure in Heaven—and so when their _____ are reviewed in Heaven—their works “**ends up being burned**” (6:8).

43. Again, like the Apostle Paul’s imagery, three times over in Hebrews 6:8 we find the pronoun “**it**” — referring _____ to “**the vegetation**” — just mentioned (6:7).

7 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and produces vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; 8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.

44. The _____ does not end up being burned in Hell—but the fruit of that life ends up as “**worthless**” like “**wood, hay**” & “**straw**” at the judgment of the just.

45. Their eternally secure salvation was not in jeopardy—only their _____.

46. It might be rather depressing if the writer to the Hebrews left them there, but he does not because he believes they can “**press on to maturity**” (6:1), and he is “**convinced of better things**” (6:9) for them—as God is for ____.

47. While God may discipline us, He will never condemn us (Romans 8:1), and so the crop of God’s blessing—pictured in Hebrews 6:7 is called in Hebrews 6:9 as “**things that accompany salvation**” our God _____ to make us fruitful.

48. Not every believer bears the same *amount* of fruit—(“**some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty,**” Matt. 13:23); but every believer bears the same *kind* of fruit in character and conduct—as _____ that he is a child of God (Matt. 7:15–20).

49. Once again—God is not looking for people of “**great ability**” — but people who are available to obey as the Spirit empowers us & we are rewarded in eternity _____.

50. We know that God will reward his people for the manner in which we treat others, and those “**others**” include not simply those who are saved but those who are _____.

32 If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount. 35 “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 6:32-35).

51. The occasion for this statement—was when Christ was addressing a large group of disciples “**from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon**” (Luke 6:17-19) who _____ to be healed & to be released from demon possession.

52. The Lord wants to make it clear—that our character as His followers—should be different from the character seen in the world for they only reciprocate with love and goodness—only if they had “**good**” done to them & “**love**” shown to _____.

53. Since we are sons of a “**new covenant**” by which the Spirit indwells us and empowers us (Jeremiah 31:33; Philippians 4:13) —we should “**love**” even our “**enemies**” & bless them if it is in our _____ to do so (Luke 6:34).

54. God promises that at “**the judgment seat of Christ**” our “**reward will be great**” when we behave—as God behaves towards us—showing that _____ are different.

55. If we are to display the title “**sons of the Most High**” then we must show love and goodness and mercy like God—who is “**kind to ungrateful and evil men**” (6:35), _____ both “**sun**” & “**rain on the righteous and the unrighteous**” (6:45).

56. God wants _____ people to behave as He behaves—and so despite the wickedness and the hostility of some people—God will “**reward**” in heaven—these kind of choices we make—starting in the home & church & even to those who are lost.

44 But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may prove yourselves to be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Even the tax collectors, do they not do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Even the Gentiles, do they not do the same (Matthew 5:44–47)?

57. As God's people we are called to live on a much higher plane than the lost people of this world—who typically only return good for good and evil for evil—we must return good for evil—and in so doing we will help to make them God's _____.

#2. We know that God will reward his people for how we use our gifts in His church.

1. When God adopted you—into His family—He gave you a spiritual _____.
2. The moment you were born-again, on the day God saved you, that is on your “**spiritual birthday**” you received “**a birthday present**” that He expects you to find — and to use in the local church — that you are to be a _____ of.
3. In 1 Peter 4:10—there is an assumption by the Apostle Peter that our _____ are discoverable—such that we can **employ** them in serving God's people:

10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

4. When he mentions “**a special gift**” he is referring to is not your ability to sing in the choir, or to play the piano, or some athletic talent, or an artistic talent, or mechanical skill, or the intellectual acumen that you may _____.
5. True, the rest of the Bible teaches that someday we will all have to give an account for all that God has entrusted us with—including natural talents & acquired skills, but in the context of 1 Peter 4 he is referring to the spiritual “**gift**” God gave _____.
6. Unfortunately—the average Christian today—suffers from the _____ malady that the Corinthians suffered from when Paul wrote, “**Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware**” or “**ignorant**” (KJV) (1 Cor. 12:1).
7. And if that is your state, then you might want to go to searchthescriptures.org and take the test I wrote—that will help you to _____ your spiritual gift.
8. We who have been saved have been given a spiritual gift—and it is our duty and our privilege—to discover our spiritual gift—to develop our spiritual gift and to put our spiritual gift to _____ as “**good stewards**” of God's “**manifold grace.**”
9. Stewardship involves accountability, and when we meet Christ for our personal time of evaluation, we want to be found to be ‘**good stewards**’ of the grace-gift He gave _____.
10. Stewardship defined biblically, identifies God as the owner of everything (Ps. 24:1), and we His people as _____ who will one day give an account (Luke 16:1-15).
11. God makes the believer—His co-worker in administering—all aspects of our _____.

12. More often than not, when we think of good stewardship, we think of ____ we manage our finances and our faithfulness in paying God’s tithes & offerings.
13. As we will learn, it is more than just how we manage our time and our possessions, but how we use _____ entrusted to us — including our spiritual gifts.
13. Faithful stewardship means—that we fully acknowledge we are ____ our own, but that we belong to Christ who gave Himself for us (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
14. These gifts are described as “**the manifold**” or “**the multifaceted**” (NAS2020)—or as “**the varied grace of God**” (CSB) because 1st, we do not deserve or merit a particular “**gift**” and 2nd, by His design there are many kinds needed for the church to ____.
15. The Apostle Paul will remind the Corinthians that there is one Body of Christ, but there are indeed many members— and just as all the members in your “**human body**” do not function identically, ____ do we in “**Christ’s Body.**”

12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot says, “Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, “Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired (1 Corinthians 12:12–18).

16. Simply summarized, everyone is gifted, there are no unimportant persons, and when God saved you—He intended for you to function in _____ of His many churches.
17. *The concept of membership*—the concept of committing yourself to a local assembly of believers — comes from verses like these — where we are called to _____.
18. Being a member of Christ’s Body makes us “**members of one another**” (Rom 12:5), and it is through — your involvement — in a local body of born-again Christians, that you will discover your spiritual gift and be able to _____ your spiritual gift.
19. Just as my mouth does not have difficulty recognizing the hand that feeds it, since we are “**members of one another**” as Romans 12:5 indicates—then we can _____ each other recognize our spiritual gifts so we can “**employ**” them.
20. Since one of the functions of a spiritual gift is that it brings blessing & strength to the Body—as you exercise it—certainly others will notice so you can ____ it.