

Problem:

ok salvation is free (last week 19:13-26) Romans 6:23; (Romans 5:8)...so, what can we earn?
We want to earn something after all. This is what we know. Status based on performance or position.
The problem is we do not understand the relationship between reward and grace.

CPT:

Crowns (Matthew 19:27-29)

- Based on this section, was Peter's question a bad one?
- Based on this section, what was their motivation for service thus far (29)?
- What about reward? Was it a proper motivation for sacrifice and service?
 - Read: Revelation 20:11-12; 22:12; 1 Corinthians 3:8; 6:2-3; 2 Corinthians 5:10; (psalm 1 -wicked are not given judgment for reward but for punishment);
 - What do our heavenly rewards look like?
Read: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; James 1:12 and (rev 2:10); 2 Timothy 4:7-8; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20;
1 pet 5:1-4

are not for comparing (Matthew 20:1-16)

- Verse 19:30 and 20:16, create a sandwich where the principle of ranking or status is taken away.
- Notice 20:10 is almost the same as Peter's question in 19:27.
- Why might Jesus give the corrective with this parable?
 - Read: Matthew 6:1-4.
- The workers were upset about God's standard of judgment. How does Ezekiel 8:21-25 shed light on this idea?
- God was teaching them about wages and grace. You do not earn salvation in ANY aspect. Last week we saw this in terms of justification. We could do nothing but ask for mercy in repentance. This week we see that sanctification, like justification, is a gift.
 - Read: Ephesians 2:8-10; Galatians 3:1-3 and John 15:5.

they are for casting down

- is it wrong to be motivated by spiritual reward - Ephesians 6:5-9?
 - Read: Genesis 12:1-4.
- What was Abram promised?
 - Read: Genesis 13:1-6.
- What was Abram given in the meantime?
 - Read: Genesis 15:1-3 (in the KJV or the NIV) -
- What was His real treasure?
 - Read: Genesis 17:6-8; Numbers 18:20; Psalm 16:5-6; 73:25-26; 119:57; 142:4-5; Jeremiah 10:16; Lamentations 3:24.
- What is our real treasure?

- So where does spiritual reward fit in?
 - Read Revelation 4:10-11. Crowns are not for comparing... but for casting down

for He is our prize

- Read: Psalm 70:4; Isaiah 61:10; Joel 2:23; Habakkuk 3:17-18; Philippians 3:1; 4:4.
 - What should we do then?

- Read Matthew 19:16 and then read John 17:2-3.
 - What was ironic about His question?
 - What was ironic about the disciples focus on reward?

Main Idea: The real reward is not getting Heaven, it is getting God.

- Read Matthew 1:23. How does this put it all in perspective?

Matthew 19:27-20:16 - Barabbas Road Church Sermon Study -*Casting Crowns*-

Heaven is not the reward, it is the place. Riches are not the reward, they are the party favors. status is not the reward, it is the result. the real reward is God. He is the prize -Immanuel -God with us.

How does this intersect with your life?

How should you personally respond to this message?

How should you corporately respond as a group? How should we, as a church?

Read and discuss:

<http://www.gotquestions.org/heavenly-crowns.html>

and

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/christian-hedonism>