

# ***Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study***

## **Don't Be a Fool. Invest in Eternity**

Week of April 11, 2021 A.D.

In his book A Life God Rewards, author Bruce Wilkinson states “The teachings of Jesus show us that there are two keys that determine everything about your eternity.” What you believe determines where you will spend eternity. How you behave determines your reward for eternity.

**Read John 3:16-17 Acts 16:29-31 John 14:1-3, 6 Acts 7:54-56**

1. Consider carefully how all four passages relate to each other. Is Jesus in heaven now? What is the only way for a person to enter heaven? What does it mean for a person “to believe in Jesus”? After the physical death of a believer, how long will she/he live in the presence of Jesus in heaven? Please explain your answers.

**Read Matthew 10:28, 32-33**

2. If a person does not acknowledge Jesus as his savior, does that person go to hell after he or she dies? Please explain your answer.
3. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “What you believe about Jesus determines where you will spend eternity. So, the importance of that decision is no laughing matter.”

**Read Luke 6:22-23**

4. Read the verses carefully. Is Jesus asking you and me to “enjoy” being rejected on His behalf? If so, why? If not, what is Jesus saying here? Please explain your answers.

**Read Matthew 16:24-27**

5. What is the danger to which Jesus calls our attention in these verses? Does Jesus promise rewards for (a) our belief in Him or (b) our behavior after believing in Him? Do your words and actions matter to God? Please explain.

**Read Matthew 19:21**

6. Is Jesus saying that you will get into heaven if you give all of your possessions to the poor? Is Jesus saying that, if you are one of His followers, you will have a treasure in heaven for (a) following Him? and/or (b) giving to the poor? What is the primary / big picture principle which Jesus is teaching in this verse? Please explain your answers.

### **Read Luke 14:12-14**

7. Is there a difference between (a) receiving a reward and (b) being repaid? If so, what different behaviors is Jesus encouraging by (a) the promise of a reward? and (b) the promise of repayment? Please explain.
8. Which is going to last longer: (a) your life on earth? or (b) your life in eternity? Which life should have the greater influence on the decisions you make? Please explain.
9. Is God the creator and ruler of everything? Is God the ruler over the laws of labor and economics? Are the ideas of labor, wages, risk, and reward understood by God? Is it reasonable for Jesus to promise rewards to his followers in exchange for using their possessions, talents, and lives to glorify Him? Please explain your answers.
10. Is it fair for God to reward his followers based upon their (a) obedience to Him and (b) commitment to serving Christ and His kingdom? Please explain. Is it fair for God to allow his children/followers to know that they can either store-up treasures on earth or they can store-up treasures in heaven – but they can't do both at the same time? Please explain.
11. To which are you more committed: (a) enjoying the temporary pleasures of this life? or (b) obedience to Christ and his promise of eternal rewards? Please explain.

### **Read 1 John 2:15-17**

12. Does Jesus love us? Would Jesus include in the Bible anything which is not intended for our good? What is the meaning of and purpose for these verses? How will these verses affect your future behavior and your desire to enjoy the eternal rewards which Jesus wants you to receive from Him?

**Consider:** Jesus is keeping track of what you do for Him every day. You have more to gain by serving Jesus than you can ever imagine. “You think about that.” Amen.

(This was reprinted and distributed on Sunday April 11, 2021.)