

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 77

Believers have Big Differences in Heaven



2013

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



Lesson

As believers we are all going to be in heaven. We are all going to be ULTIMATELY happy. We are all going to have resurrection bodies just like Jesus'. However, there will be **BIG** differences among believers in heaven also. We will not be equal in heaven. Yes, we will **ALL** be happy but **NOT equal**.

These differences that are taught in the Bible are: **rank, ruler-ship, reward, recognition, privilege, and intimacy.**

Rank: first and last.

Ruler-ship: 10 cities, 5 cities, no cities; sitting down on Christ's throne to rule with Him.

Reward: to each according to his service to Christ; crowns.

Recognition: the order of the Morning Star, name on a pillar in the New Jerusalem.

Privilege: name on a pillar in the New Jerusalem.

Intimacy: a special name that only you and the Lord know.



This lesson is going to be all about what the Bible says about this subject. We are really going to see a lot of verses that will teach us about these differences.

The best place to see all of this is in the book of Revelation, the book that speaks to the church specifically about future things. But it's not only in the Book of Revelation of course, because these things, these differences between believers are also found throughout the gospels and the epistles in the New Testament...the textbook for Church Age believers.



Why for example would we be encouraged to run our race to spiritual maturity in such a way that we would win, if there were no possibility of NOT winning the race, right? **1 Cor 9:24 "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win."** Why would even Paul speak at the end of **1 Cor 9:27** about the danger of him being disqualified from the competition? **"But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."** See his goal was to teach the Corinthians to be winners in their race to spiritual maturity and not losers and he explained that if he didn't keep persisting in his own race to win how could he expect them to do it? He would have been a hypocrite, right? So he was always inspiring them and all other believers he knew in all the cities he visited to complete the race and plan God had for them. He also prayed for all the believes of his time to stay in the grace and mercy and peace of God...in other words to stay in the race and win it!!!



The Bible also warns us that there are dangers and temptations out there that could cause us to lose out, to lose our reward or crown in Rev 3:11-13 "I am coming quickly (Rapture); **hold fast** to what you have, **so that no one will take your crown.** (12a) **He who overcomes (wins),** I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name. (13) He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Jesus told this to the CHURCH at Philadelphia and this was one of the two churches in the book of Revelation chapters 2 and 3 that the Lord had just about all good things to say. The other five churches in Revelation that the Lord spoke to were in much rougher shape and He warned them!

Let's go back to our list of six ways that the New Testament speaks of differences between believers after the Rapture. Let's concentrate on the Word of God this morning. I want to give you what Bible verses for each of these differences:

1. **Rank:** twelve thrones, "first" and "last" in Matt 19:27-30. "Then Peter said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us? (28) And Jesus said to them, 'Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me in the regeneration (salvation) when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, **you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.** (29) And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake will receive many times as much and will inherit eternal life. (30) **But many who are first (proud) will be last (humbled); and the last (truly humble), first (privileged)."**

2. **Ruler-ship:** 10 cities, 5 cities, no cities; sitting down on Christ's throne to rule with Him. Luke 19:11-27 "While they were listening to these things, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem and they supposed that the **kingdom of God** (the Millennium) was going to appear immediately (but it wasn't...the Church Age would start but they didn't know this yet). (12) So He said, 'A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself and then return. (13) And he called **ten of his slaves**, and gave them ten minas (money) and said to them, '**Do business with this** until I come back.' (14) But his citizens (enemies) hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' (Notice that he mentions both citizens (enemies) and slaves...a big difference). See if you know what the difference is. Can you guess? If not, you will see at the end of the passage what the difference is. (15) When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves to whom he had given the minas (money) be called to him so that he might know **what business they had done.** (16) The first appeared, saying, 'Master, **your** mina has made ten minas more.' (17) And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, **because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities** (in his new kingdom).' (18) The second came, saying, '**your** mina, master, has made five minas.' (19) And he said to him also, '**And you are to be over five cities.**' (20) Another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief (for safekeeping) (21) for I was afraid of you, because you are an tough man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.' (22) The master said to him, 'By your own words I will judge you, you **worthless slave.** Did you know that I am a tough man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? (23) Then why did you not at least put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?' (24) Then he said to the bystanders, '**Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.**' (25) And they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas already.' (26) 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. (27) But these **enemies** of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence.'" If you didn't know the difference, here it is: the citizens (enemies) represent unbelievers who get slain (Lake of Fire), while the slaves who were the believers either receive a reward or suffer loss of reward depending on the business that they do with what the Master had given them to do while he was away. Another point to see is his emphasis on QUANTITY: how much "business" you transacted for the Master determines the level of your ruler-ship. Of course you know the Master represents Jesus.
 

There is a similar parable in the gospel of [Matthew 25:14-30](#). Only in that parable the master gives out talents rather than minas. He gives ten talents to the first, five talents to the second, and one talent to the third slave. Let's read it together so you get a complete picture of the parables and what they mean.

What you're seeing in these parables is the wonderful interaction between the sovereignty and grace of God on the one hand, and the choices of His slaves (believers) on the other hand. You see God is free to give more to some than to others. But He gives SOMETHING to every one. The slaves were free to make something more with the "minas" they were given freely...or not. It was their choice just like it's our choice everyday to serve the Master, Jesus, or not. Those that say "yes" to the plan of God get rewarded according to what they put into it. Those that say "no" to the plan of God...this is AFTER salvation...suffer loss of reward.

[Rev 2:25-29](#) "Nevertheless what you have (your staying in the plan of God), hold fast until I come. (26) He who overcomes (wins the race), and **he who keeps My deeds until the end** (reaches spiritual maturity), **TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; (27) AND HE SHALL RULE THEM (nations) WITH A ROD OF IRON**, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father; (28) and I will give him (believers who stay in the plan) the morning star. (29) He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

[Rev 3:21](#) "He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."

- 3. Reward:** to each according to his deeds (service to Jesus); crowns. [Mat 5:11-12](#) "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. (12) Rejoice and be glad, for **your reward in heaven is great**; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

[Matt 10:40-42](#) "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**."

Notice here that there are different types of rewards depending on the believer's service and dedication to the plan of God and Jesus.



This next passage in [Luke](#) emphasizes the QUALITY of one's service. [Luke 6:35-36](#) "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. (36) Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

Notice the word "great". This means different levels of reward...Great, Good, So-So, or Lousy. Which do you want, kids?

Notice the reference to being "**sons**." This is the opposite of being infants or children. This refers to **mature sons** and **daughters** who are about their Father's business, obediently in the plan of God and sharing in that indestructible life.

Now let's move to the church age epistles and see what they have to teach us: [1 Cor 3:8-9](#) "Now he who plants (gives the Gospel) and he who waters (comes behind and confirms the Gospel) are one; but each will receive **his own reward** according to **his own labor**. (9) For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field or God's building (the body of Christ)."

1 Cor 3:14-15 "If any man's work which he has built on it remains (after it is burned at the evaluation seat of Jesus right after the Rapture), he will receive a **reward**. (15) If any man's work is burned up, he will **suffer loss** (of reward); but he himself **will be saved**, yet so as through fire." This is the only time in heaven when a believer will suffer shame in front of Jesus and all the other believers that are before Jesus' throne as He evaluates each of us on the work we did in our service on earth for Him.

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

Notice again that the emphasis is on doing, works, and service, yet even here the heart is in view. In other words you love serving Christ! Rewards are associated with work and service. Do you love serving the Lord yet? I pray so.



Yet still the heart is in view...doing your work heartily and for the Lord.

What's your motivation? What do you love most? Do you love the Lord and look for His appearing at the Rapture? If you do, you have the virtues of faithfulness, persistence, and endurance. Jesus loves this and rewards it abundantly!!!

And as we shall see, service and works in time, sticking with it, carrying out the works that God has ordered for you...always by means of grace...the believer succeeds and receives the reward. And a big part of the reward is to be promoted to the rank where we can provide service to the Lord and others in the Millennium and for all eternity...ruling, and most wonderfully taking a leading role in the worship of the Lord! **James 1:12** "Blessed is a man who sticks with it under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

This is rich. This reward...the crown of life...is conditional on three factors here:

- *Those who love the Lord.
- *Those who stick with it under trial.
- *Those whose virtue has been tested and approved by God.



2 John 8 "Watch yourselves that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a **full reward**." John is referring to continuing to walk in the truth, not being sidetracked or deceived by false teachers. Notice the expression "**full reward**." That means that you could lose part of the reward and only receive a partial reward.

Rev 2:10 "Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be **tested**, and you will have tribulation for ten days. **Be faithful until death**, and I will give you **the crown of life**. Notice that our virtue is tested during our lives here on earth. Some more than others but remember God is always with us during the testing and suffering and never gives us more than we can handle with His grace.

Rev 22:10-14 "And he said to me, 'Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. (11) Let the one who does wrong still do wrong; and the one who is filthy still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy still keep himself holy. (12) For behold, I am coming quickly (at any moment in the Rapture) and **My reward** is with Me to render to every man according to what he has **done** (our service to Christ). (13) I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. (14) Blessed are those who wash their robes (remain in the plan of God obediently) so that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city." This is telling us to stick with it because the Lord can come back at any moment. Be ready. Live each day like the Rapture will happen that day. You can't lose your reward doing that, right? RIGHT!!!

4. Recognition: the order of the Morning Star, name of fame, pillar:

Rev 2:25-29 "Nevertheless what you have, hold it fast until I come. (26) He who overcomes (wins the race to spiritual maturity; remains in the Plan of God), and he who keeps (obeys) My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; (27) AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father; (28) and **I will give him the morning star.** (29) He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Rev 3:4-6 "But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments (left the plan of God); and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. (5) He who overcomes will thus be **clothed in white garments**; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and **I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.** (6) He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Rev 3:11-13 "I am coming quickly (at any moment in the Rapture); hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown. (12) He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name. (13) He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

5. Privilege: the right to eat of the tree of life, entering by the gates into the city:

Rev 2:7 "To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God."

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

6. Intimacy: a special name that only you and the Lord know:

Rev 2:17 "To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it."

Keep on running the race to win it. Stay in and live the plan of God. Don't get sidetracked. Don't quit. Receive the complete prize that the Lord has waiting for those who keep on loving Him by continuing to hear the word of God and keeping it. He's cheering us on and praying for us along the way. You can't beat that, kids.



Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on 4-11/2012
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