GOD'S REWARD SYSTEM

Text: Matthew 16:27 - "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father, with His angels, and then He shall reward every man according to his works."

The Bible doesn't make it very clear when the rewards will be acknowledged, but Matthew 16:27 hints that it could be at the second coming. This means after the seven years of tribulation. Revelation 19:11-16. Or, maybe after the one thousand year reign of Christ. Revelation 20:7-15. These verses in Revelation 20:11-15, are clearly teaching us that the unsaved dead will be judged and eternally sentenced to the lake of fire.

What about the saved? What about those who know Jesus, and are born again? It's not certain when the judgment (Romans 14:10 / II Corinthians 5:10) will be. The theory would be either after we pass away, immediately standing in His presence, or after the Rapture takes place. (I Thessalonians 4:16-18)

As I previously mentioned, at the 2nd coming or proceeding the thousand year reign. For the christian, we don't know for sure when (the unsaved, of course, we do), but the reward time will eventually take place. (Luke 14:14 has the implication that it possibly could be at the Rapture).

We don't serve God so we can get a 'reward'. Our loving Father does want to reward and bless us, because He loves us and appreciates that we want to serve Him in our faithful calling.


The Bible mentions five crowns of reward that we should make note of.

1) CROWN OF REJOICING.

I Thessalonians 2:19 & 20.

Those who lead others to the Lord. It's the "soulwinner's crown".

2) CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.
II Timothy 4:8.

Those who are anticipating and looking forward to His return.

3. CROWN OF LIFE.

James 1:12/ Revelation 2:10.

Enduring temptation without giving in to it. You love Him enough to say "no". It could also be a martyr's crown!

4. CROWN OF GLORY.

I Peter 5:4.

Those who help others know God better. (Ex: teachers, pastor's, leader's in the church and outside of the church).

5. INCORRUPTIBLE CROWN.

I Corinthians 9:24 & 25.

Doing what pleases God. Laying aside anything or anyone that would distract and weight one down.

Here are some other scriptures that hint of other ways we will be rewarded. This could possibly be a crown, as a reward, or maybe even another reward of some kind.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

1. I Corinthians 3:8 - Rewarded according to your work.

2. Matthew 6:4 - Giving alms in secret, you'll be rewarded openly.


5. Matthew 10: 41 & 42 - "Honoring a prophet (one who foretells or forthtells),
will be rewarded. Also, honoring spiritual workers who are walking in righteousness.


Verses Referring To Crowns:
Revelation 4:10 / Revelation 4:4

Verses Referring To Rewards:
Revelation 11:18 / Revelation 22:2

Verses Referring To Our Works:
(whether it will stand the test)
I Corinthians 3: 13 & 14 / Ecclesiastes 12:14

CLOSING REMARKS:
When you serve the Lord with the right heart and motives, God will anoint and appoint you to serve Him in realms that will satisfy and bring fulfillment to your life. Those that you touch will be affected by God's love.

Remember, God is keeping track in heaven.

Revelation 20:12 - "... and the books were open..." This verse implies that there are record-keeping books in heaven, where God (probably the angels), are writing down 'records' of our life, service, commitment, giving, soul-winning, and other things we're not even aware of.

Let me close with this encouraging verse in I Corinthians 15:58. (read it)

For more info: www.therevivalchurch.com and www.jillwalker.org

You may e-mail Pastor Jill at: revjill@yahoo.com Matthew 19:26 - "With God All Things Are Possible."