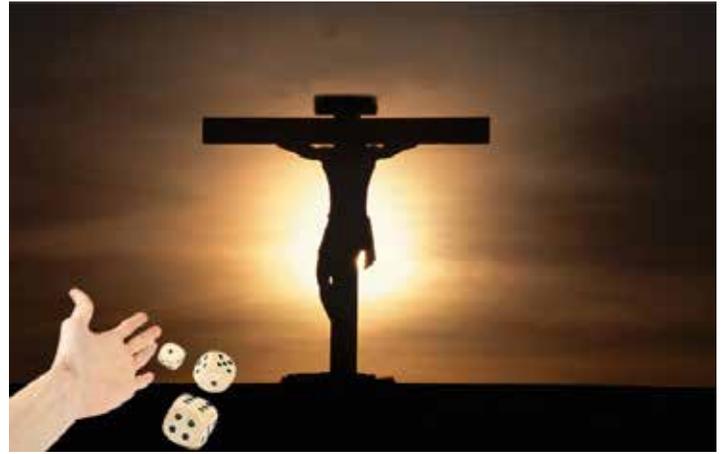


“Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.” Hebrews 11:25-26 KJV



Men endure hardships for desire. “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure” indicates the individuality of worth. Sometimes we find a friend who shares our passions and even rarer, a mate. Reward makes hardship bearable and we find this epitomized in the person of our Lord Jesus “*who for the Joy that was set before Him ENDURED THE CROSS, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the Throne of God.*” What was His “*recompence of the reward*” for which He suffered? His Love for us. “*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.*” Christ prayed this for His own, “*Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.*” God’s Joy and reward is the loving adoration of His children. If we are truly God’s friend, His Joy will be reciprocated in us by our obedience; the true test of a child of the KING! His provision and protection are simply manifestations of that Love. As I’ve said before, you cannot hold back one whit of your soul from God and expect His favor. “*For the Lord thy God is a jealous God!*” How would you feel if your spouse was unfaithful? You expect and demand ALL their love! What is your “*recompence of reward*” for following Christ? If it is anything but Jesus Himself you’ve totally missed the boat! Going to heaven and eternal life are merely the benefits of our relationship with God! If you have no relationship, you have no benefits! I’ve heard many say, “Me and God have an understanding.” Really?! You’re certain God will acquiesce His eternal sovereignty to accommodate your whims, desires and needs? I think not! There is only one understanding of God which one can get from God’s Word: “*Without me, ye are nothing!*” Do it your way and you will go where those who reject God go; the Lake of Fire for eternity; for that is your just recompence! You may think that you’ve added faith to your life by believing that God exists, but “*even the devils believe and tremble. Without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please Him!*”

The saint’s rewards will far exceed,
All thoughts and words or even deeds,
Given from heart of adoring love,
Reserved for them in worlds above! ~CGP

If you stood on the interstate with a semi truck bearing down on you, you could affirm, swear, and declare your “belief” that if you stay there you will die, but until your “belief” moves your feet, it is but vain rhetoric! “*Faith without works (obedience) is dead!*” Obedience to God’s Word is the evidence of faith. Death will forever close the door on God’s mercy! “*TODAY is the day of salvation! It is appointed unto man ONCE (no reincarnation) to die and after this the Judgment!*” When do YOU expect to die? This afternoon may be an hour too late for salvation! Dear Believer, do you love and serve God for His gifts or His Love?

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.” Colossians 3:23-25 KJV