

## SHEDDING LIGHT ON FINISHING WELL

**Bible Reading:** 2 Timothy 4:7-8  
Acts 20:24  
1 Corinthians 3:10-14

### Introduction:

One of the great doctrines of Christianity is our belief in a heavenly home. Ultimately, we shall spend eternity with God in the place He has prepared for us. Part of that exciting anticipation is His promise to reward His servants for a job well done. Scripture not only supports the idea of eternal rewards, it spells out the specifics. I find three primary facts about rewards in **1 Corinthians 3:10-14**.

All rewards are based on quality, not quantity. We humans are impressed with size & volume & noise & numbers. It is easy to forget that God's eye is always on motive. When He rewards servants, it will be based on quality – which means everybody has an equal opportunity to receive a reward. The elderly woman who prays before an audience of one will be rewarded as much as the evangelist who preaches before an audience of thousands.

No reward that is postponed will be forgotten. God doesn't settle His accounts at the end of every day. Nor does He close out His books toward the end of everyone's life. But when that day in eternity dawns, when time shall be no more on this earth, no act of serving others – be it well-known or unknown to others – will be forgotten. Unlike many people today, God keeps His promises.

Someone once counted all the promises in the Bible & came up with an amazing figure of almost 7,500. Among that large number are some specific promises servants can claim today. Believe me, there are times when the only thing that will keep you going is a promise from God that your work is not in vain.

When we have done what was needed, but were ignored, misunderstood, or forgotten... we can be sure it was not in vain.

When we did what was right, with the right motive, but received no credit, no acknowledgement, not even a 'thank you'... we have God's promise that "***we shall reap***".

When any servant has served & given & sacrificed & then willingly stepped aside for God to receive the glory, our heavenly Father promises he will receive back.

Among the temporal rewards we will receive is the quiet awareness that the life of Christ is being modelled. I know of few more satisfying & encouraging rewards than the realization that our actions are visible expressions of Christ to others.

Another temporal reward is the *joyful realization that a thankful spirit is being stimulated.* “*All this is for your benefit, so that the Grace that is reaching more & more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the Glory of God*” (2 Cor. 4:15 NIV).

And then there are the eternal rewards. Some of them are referred to as “*crowns*” that are being set aside for God’s servants. The Bible speaks of at least five crowns.

- The Imperishable Crown (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).
- The Crown of Rejoicing (Philippians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20).
- The Crown of Righteousness (2 Timothy 4:7-8).
- The Crown of Life (James 1:12).
- The Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:1-4).

What a scene!! All of God’s servants before His Throne. Are they strutting around Heaven displaying their crowns? No! (Revelation 4:10)

The servants are bowing in worship, having cast all their crowns before their Lord in adoration & praise, ascribing worth & honour to the only One deserving of Praise... the Lord God!!

### A Final thought

God alone is perfectly & consistently just.

We forget, God remembers. We see an action, God sees motive.

This qualifies Him as the best record-keeper and judge.

