

# "What's My Reputation?"



*“He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live with reverent fear of him during your time as foreigners here on earth. For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.”*

*The Apostle Peter | 1 Peter 2 17-19 (NLT)*

Isn't gaining salvation enough? Why would God bother rewarding us for what we do after already giving us such an undeserved and overwhelming gift? What could have any value in the shadow of the priceless investment he made to save us from living out empty lives; so much that he would reward us for doing it?

King Solomon, the wisest man ever, remained clear eyed as he sought meaningful answers. After pursuing pleasure, riches, and even great works, he concluded that nothing *"under the sun"* has enduring value; nothing is reward worthy. He even advised...

*"Choose a good reputation over great riches, for being held in high esteem is better than having silver or gold." King Solomon (Proverbs 22:1)*

Perhaps the pinnacle, *"being held in high esteem"* in the eyes of others is still the pride filled outcome of living an empty life *"under the sun."* Would God reward someone for simply being known as a good person?

***Reflect: If asked, what might others say about my reputation?***

How could the treasures of an empty life, all vulnerable to death, decay, and thieves, be reward worthy?

*"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your*

*treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.” Jesus Christ (Matthew 6:19-20)*

Gratefully, your allegiances are different now. Have you fully embraced that your world has been flipped on its head? Born again of the Spirit, you’ve been transported from your empty life; now you’re poised to live your full life. Though living in an empty world surrounded by others motivated by the rewards of it, you belong to a different kingdom now, with a different king... and a different reward system, one built on top of God’s priceless investment. A high bar!

What might be the reward worthy outcome of one living this full life?

*“So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” The Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 10:31)*

With the shift to living a full life comes an upheaval of who’s in the limelight. There is only one worthy of it; it’s not all about you anymore. Your reputation in the eyes of others is worthless. Such a struggle to give up! Entrenched pride is razed only by developing a new reputation, one for having *“reverent fear of the Lord,”* one that glorifies him.

**Consider: My reputation for glorifying the Lord is reward worthy.**

How’s your reputation spreading?

*“When the queen of Sheba heard of Solomon’s reputation, which brought honor to the name of the Lord, she came to test him with hard questions.” (1 Kings 10:1)*

King Solomon wrote, *“Not a single person on earth is always good and never sins.” (Ecclesiastes 7:20)*. He was no exception. Yet, he still managed to develop a reputation for bringing honor to the Lord by utilizing his gift of wisdom. The Queen of Sheba’s life was never the same after her encounter with Solomon.

Likewise, utilizing your God given giftedness to advance your Mission is your pathway to develop a reputation for glorifying God.

*Imagine: **Advancing my Mission is work that won’t burn up.***

Stop for a moment to consider the severity of God’s judgement... Let him instill a bit of fear in you. Things that seem good, even great in our eyes, won’t pass through the wall of flames. He is serious!

*“Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.” The Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 3:12-15)*

Only that which glorifies God will survive. Your Mission, received from God, is permeated with his Mission, his greatness. It will not advance without you glorifying him. As you push ahead, ask...

### "What's My Reputation?"

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

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#### Coach's Questions

- What treasure from my empty life is keeping me from living out my full life?
- How have I twisted my good works to really be all about me?
- How can I change my actions, my speech, my heart, so God will receive the glory?

## Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

### **My Mission glorifies God.**

*"Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen."*

*The Apostle Peter | 1 Peter 4:11 (NLT)*



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~ DAN B.

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