

The Attributes of God ~ His Benevolence

Intro: God is Benevolent and rewards those who seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Matthew 6:33

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Jeremiah 29:11

'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

Observation:

- Carefully **read** and **reread** the text.
- Note** all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask:** Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note** and **mark** key words and ideas, as well as their *relationships* with one another.

Note and mark

- What *God is*. Hebrews 11:6
- What will be added to you. Matthew 6:33
- What kind of plans God has. Jeremiah 29:11

Interpretation:

Hebrews 11:6 Why does the writer mention God as a 'rewarder of those who seek

Him? _____

Matthew 6:33 From the context, what are the 'things' mentioned here? _____

From Hebrews 11:6 and this verse, why does God give rewards? _____

Jeremiah 29:11 Who is the 'you' mentioned in this verse? _____

From the context, why does the LORD assure them of His plan for them?

Note:

In this definitive verse on faith, it is significant that it teaches you cannot please God unless you believe that He rewards those who seek Him! The numerous testimonies in the chapter reinforces the importance of this truth.

Note:

Jesus sought to separate man from his pursuit of earthly rewards in order to focus on eternal pursuits. His use of rewards helped to motivate this realignment of man's priorities, for He knew that ultimately, we tend to do what benefits us!

Note:

The promise in Jeremiah 29:11 is given specifically to the Israelites who had been taken to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. God wanted to assure them that He still had them on His mind and in His heart. The motive behind this promise was for them to seek Him!

The Attributes of God ~ His Benevolence (cont)

1 Corinthians 3

13 each man's work will become evident;
for the day will show it
because it is to be revealed with fire,
and the fire itself will test the quality
of each man's work.
14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains,
he will receive a reward.

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear
before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each one may be recompensed
for his deeds in the body,
according to what he has done,
whether good or bad.

Observation:

- Carefully read and reread the text.
- Note all persons, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions & articles.
- Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? & Why? Find answers in the text, *only!*
- Note and mark key words and ideas, as well as their relationships with one another.

Note and mark

- What a person may receive. 1 Corinthians 3:14
- Why we must appear before Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:10

Interpretation:

1 Corinthians 3:13-14 From the context, what will determine the 'quality' of 'each

man's works? _____

From 1 Corinthians 3:15, what relationship do 'rewards' have to our our

salvation? _____

2 Corinthians 5:10 What is the purpose of this judgment? _____

What does the giving of rewards tell us about God? _____

Note:

Paul sought to encourage the Corinthian Christians with the warning that it does matter how they lived their lives. A day of reckoning was in their future and God will reward them for what they did, or did not do, in this life.

As the poem wisely teaches: 'Only one life will soon be past; Only what's done for Christ will last!'

But mercifully, the rewards have nothing to do with our eternal salvation. As Paul puts it, the man without rewards will still be saved, but singed.

Note:

Too few Christians are concerned with the judgment seat of Christ where He will either reward, or deny us according to the good and bad we did in our earthly bodies. We do well to pay attention, because clearly, rewards are important to God!

Application Principles: In light of what you have learned, what **Truths** or **Principles** are taught in these texts about God's Benevolence?

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

- ❖ _____

Application Practicals: In light of these Truths & Principles, what will you **do** to apply them to your life **today**?

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

Write out a verse from above that you would like to memorize and/or meditate upon:

From what you learned, how is God different from His creation and/or creatures?

Final Note:

The Benevolence of God is the display of His goodness toward those who love and diligently seek Him. God will reward the faithful! This, in itself, demonstrates the high value God places on the life lived in pursuit of God's Kingdom and Righteousness. In the end, the only thing that will matter is all that we do in devotion to God. If this is true, and it is, then why do we do otherwise?

God is Benevolent!
He rewards our faithfulness to Him!