

As Christians we will be rewarded for our good works unto the Lord. Jesus did not intend for a Believer to receive salvation and then not serve Him. He will ask each of us, "What did you do for me with the gifts that I blessed you with?" This race is not about works to be saved. We are saved by faith and not by works. These works are after we receive the free gift of salvation and then we serve Jesus Christ as the Lord of our life.

- Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.
- 2 Tim 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
- Heb 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
- 1 Cor 9:23-27 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with *you*. Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*. And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.
- 1 Cor 3:8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.
- Heb 10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.
- 2 John 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but *that* we may receive a full reward.
- Heb 11:6 But 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 diligently seek Him.
- Rom 14:12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.
- Rom 2:6 who "will render to each one according to his deeds":

Discussion Item 1: *Are you running the race? (Describe your race)*

Discussion Item 2: *What do you need to eliminate from your life that hinders your race?*

Life Application: *Ask the Lord on a regular basis to put someone in your walk with whom you can share the gospel of God's grace. (You may be the only Christian they know)*

Helpful Definition:

testify – To make a solemn declaration, verbal or written, to establish some fact; to give testimony for the purpose of communication to others a knowledge of something not known to them. (*Webster*)

Notes:

Proverb 9:12 If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And *if* you scoff, you will bear it alone." **Proverb 11:30** The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life, And he who wins souls *is* wise.

Psalms 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.