



12 Steps to Reward

Ps Andrew Cavanagh
16th October 2011

The Need For Radical Christianity

if we tap into the love of God, we become an unstoppable force

Force 2011 Testimonies last Sunday Night

After centuries of trying to get mankind to shift to a position of agnosticism, Satan has changed tactics and is now trying to vaccinate humanity with a mild dose of Christianity so they don't contract the full blown 'disease'

***Paraphrase of Prof Chad Walsh in
Early Christians of the 21st Century (1950)***

Receive a full reward

*Watch yourselves,
that you do not lose
what we have accomplished,
but
that you may receive a full reward.*

2 John 1:8

Disciples' Distinctive

*By this all men will know that you are
my disciples,
if you love one another."*

John 13:35

Objects of Our Love

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. ***Then your reward will be great***, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

Luke 6:35

Our Road map

Colossians 3 maps out 12 clear factors that result in us receiving our reward. The Apostle Paul follows this on from discussion on the futility of man made regulations.

“Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.”

Colossians 2: 23

Step 1 - Hearts

*Since, then, you have been raised
with Christ,
set your hearts on things above,
where Christ is seated at the right
hand of God.*

Verse 1

Step 2 - Minds

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Verses 2 - 4

Step 3 – Put to Death

Put to death, therefore,
whatever belongs to your earthly nature:
sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil
desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶
Because of these, the wrath of God is
coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways,
in the life you once lived.

Verses 5 - 7

Step 4 – Rid Yourself

But now you must
rid yourselves of all such things as these:
anger, rage, malice,
slander, and filthy language
from your lips.

⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have
taken off your old self with its practices

Verses 8 & 9

Controlling the Tongue

1. **Psalm 39: 1 – 3**, Muzzled mouth but heart was the issue
2. **James 3: 2 – 16**, Tongue is a fire, but root of problem is the heart
3. **James 1 :12 – 15**, sin is born in our hearts not in temptation

Heart and Mouth

"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.

Each tree is recognized by its own fruit.

People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For **out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.** "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and **do not do what I say?**

Luke 6:43-46

Step 5 – Be renewed in knowledge

and have put on the new self, which is **being renewed in knowledge** in the image of its Creator.

¹¹ **Here** there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Verses 10 & 11

Transformation is Mental

*Do not conform any longer
to the pattern of this world,
but
be transformed
by the renewing of your mind.*

Romans 12:2

Step 6 – Clothe Yourself with:

*Therefore,
as God's chosen people,
holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with
compassion, kindness, humility,
gentleness and patience.*

Verse 12

Virtues = Fruit

*But the fruit of the Spirit is
**love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness
and self-control.***

Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

Step 7 – Bear with Each Other

*Bear with each other
and*

forgive whatever grievances

you may have against one another.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Verse 13

Step 8 - Love Overalls

And

over all these virtues put on love,
*which binds them all together in
perfect unity.*

Verse 14

Step 9 – Let Peace Rule

Let the **peace of Christ rule**
in your hearts,
since as **members of one body**
you were called to peace.

Verse 15a

Step 10 – Be Thankful

And **be thankful**.

Verse 15b

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks** to God the Father through him.

Verse 17

Step 11 – Word Indwelling

Let the **word of Christ dwell in you** richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Verse 16

Step 12 – Everything in the Name of Christ

And **whatever you do**,
whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father
through him.

Verse 17

Step 12 – Everything in the Name of Christ

- a. **Wives – submit**
- b. **Husbands – love**
- c. **Children – obey**
- d. **Fathers – don't frustrate**
- e. **Slaves – obey**

Inheritance = Reward

**We are serving Christ, Therefore He is
the one who pays for the reward**

Verses 23 & 24

The Post Script

*Devote yourselves to prayer,
being
watchful (forward looking)
and
thankful (backward looking).*

Colossians 4:2