

SEP
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Pastor Stephen Bryant

The Blessing & The Reward

The hardest thing you will ever face is still temporary.

TEXT Matthew 6:19–21

ASK Where are you storing your treasure — in the little piece that ends, or the life that never does?

✦ Everything here is temporary — the blessing, the battle, even death itself — so don't spend your whole life on the introduction. Enjoy what God gives, be faithful with what He puts in your hand, endure what you must walk through, and store your treasure there, because the reward is forever.

Even the Blessings Are Temporary

Thank God for the blessing. There is nothing spiritual about refusing to enjoy His goodness — His provision, family, health, open doors, seasons of abundance. But there is a world of difference between receiving a blessing and believing the blessing is permanent. You came into this world carrying nothing, and one day you leave everything physical behind. Walk through any estate sale: a lifetime of treasures, stickered and loaded into a stranger's truck before lunch. The problem is never having blessings; it is expecting a temporary blessing to satisfy an eternal soul.

Job 1:21 

Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

James 4:14 

What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.



REMEMBER

Receiving a blessing is not the same as believing the blessing will last.

The Blessing vs. The Reward

Here is the difference. The blessing is what God puts in your hand; the reward is what your faithfulness stores in eternity. Blessing creates stewardship, and stewardship creates the reward. God gives you a house — but did people meet Jesus there? God gives you money, influence, another day, ability — but what did you do with it? Earth is a terrible long-term storage strategy: moth, rust, thieves, decay, time. So Jesus says store it where nothing can touch it. The blessing will leave your hand, but what you did with it does not disappear.

Matthew 6:19–21



Do not store up treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal, but store up treasures in heaven. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Colossians 3:23



Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as for the Lord and not for men.



REMEMBER

The blessing is the opportunity; the reward is what your faithfulness sends on ahead.

The Suffering Is Temporary — and Paul Understood the Scale

Not everything in this life is good — some of it hurts — and Christianity never asks you to pretend otherwise. Jesus wept. Paul hurt. The apostles suffered. Pain shrinks your field of vision until the room you are standing in feels like the whole world; God is not asking you to pretend the room isn't real, He is reminding you it is not all there is. That is how Paul — beaten, imprisoned, shipwrecked — could call his affliction light and momentary. He doesn't say it wasn't painful; he says it doesn't compare. Suffering only looks enormous next to today. Paul measured it against eternity — so we don't make the pain small, we make eternity big again.

Romans 8:18 

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

**2 Corinthians
4:17–18** 

This light and momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen; for what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.



REMEMBER

The hardest thing you will ever face is still temporary — it only looks enormous next to today.

They Were Looking to the Reward

How did the early believers face prison, persecution, even execution? Hebrews 11 remembers people who were mocked, beaten, imprisoned, killed — some sawn in two — who refused release so they might rise to a better life. They were not obsessed with death; they were convinced about life. Moses walked away from the treasures of Egypt because he was looking to the reward — he could see farther. You can only threaten a person with what they believe they cannot afford to lose, and Paul had already settled it: to live is Christ, to die is gain. You cannot take from me what Jesus has secured for eternity.

Hebrews 11:35 

Some were tortured, refusing to be released, so that they might rise again to a better life.

Hebrews 11:24–26 

By faith Moses considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

Philippians 1:21 

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.



REMEMBER

They could endure the temporary because they had already seen the eternal.

Salvation Is a Gift — the Reward Is Different

Let this be clear: you do not earn heaven. You don't work your way into salvation — Jesus paid for it, and salvation is the gift of God, received by grace through faith. But Scripture is just as clear that God rewards faithfulness. One day our work will be tested; some of it survives, some of it burns. Imagine reaching the end and finding that some things you thought mattered most didn't — and some little thing you almost forgot, Jesus remembered: the person you encouraged, the gift no one saw, the temptation you refused, the mornings you prayed, the child you disciplined, the name you spoke about Jesus. Earth may never have applauded it, but heaven recorded it.

Ephesians 2:8–9



By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

1 Corinthians 3:13–14



Each one's work will become manifest, for the fire will test what sort of work it is. If the work survives, he will receive a reward.



REMEMBER

Earth measures visibility. Heaven measures faithfulness.

Even Death Is Temporary

Now the great reversal. From where we stand, death looks like it swallows life — someone dies and we say death won. But Paul gives a different picture: for the believer, life swallows death. The grave is not permanent; the Kingdom is. The suffering is not permanent; the glory is. And the God who saw every tear will wipe away the last one — no more death, no more pain — and there will never be another. Whatever is consuming you today, one day it will be called a 'former thing.'

2 Corinthians

5:4



...so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

Revelation 21:4



He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.



REMEMBER

For the believer, life swallows death — and the thing consuming you today will one day be a 'former thing.'

The Response

Lord, make eternity big in us again. Forgive us for living as though this little piece is everything.

- ✓ ENJOY THE BLESSING — but don't worship it. It's temporary.
 - ✓ BE FAITHFUL with what God puts in your hand — the reward outlasts the gift.
 - ✓ WALK THROUGH THE SUFFERING — cry when you need to, ask the hard questions, lean on your brothers and sisters.
 - ✓ STORE YOUR TREASURE THERE — forgive, give, serve, and share Christ, because eternity matters.
 - ✓ AND WHEN LIFE HURTS, REMEMBER — this is real, but this is not forever.
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The blessing is temporary. The battle is temporary. The hardest thing you will ever face is still temporary. But the reward is forever.

Our hope is in Jesus Christ; our hope is resurrection; our hope is the Kingdom that cannot be shaken — and eternity with Him. In Jesus' name, Amen.