



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



“Which Path Are You On?”

The Bible tells us that there will be two separate judgments in the future and that everyone will participate in one or the other. One will be for those whose

names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life. There they will learn that their good works were not enough to get them into heaven; as a result, they will be eternally separated from the presence of God. (Revelation 20:11-15)

The other judgment is the one I want to talk about in this article. At this judgment our works will also be examined, not to see if they were sufficient to get us into heaven, but rather to see what our eternal reward will be. We read about it in 1 Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 Amplified Bible

11 For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is [already] laid, which is Jesus Christ.
12 But if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,
13 each one's work will be clearly shown [for what it is]; for the day [of judgment] will disclose it, because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the

quality and character and worth of each person's work.

14 If any person's work which he has built [on this foundation, that is, any outcome of his effort] remains [and survives this test], he will receive a reward.

15 **But if any person's work is burned up [by the test], he will suffer the loss [of his reward];** yet he himself will be saved, but only as [one who has barely escaped] through fire.

This scripture certainly fits with what Jesus said about laying up for yourself treasure in heaven. Yes, our good works will never get us into heaven, (Only faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross will do that.) but our good works in this life will be rewarded once we get there. Paul confirms this in 2 Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 5:10 Amplified Bible

10 For we [believers will be called to account and] must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be repaid for what has been done in the body, whether good or bad [that is, each will be held responsible for his actions, purposes, goals, motives—the use or misuse of his time, opportunities and abilities].

I suspect that the emphasis that has been placed on salvation by grace through faith has caused many to lose sight of the fact that our works do matter.

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As a result of this, we see Christians doing things that make us blink our eyes in disbelief and ask ourselves, "Don't they realize they will stand before God someday?" I guess each one of us has to answer that question for ourselves.

You have probably heard it said, "The ends justify the means." People say that to try and justify whatever they do to accomplish what they have set as their end goal. But, what are the ends? That question is very important! Are the ends your own advancement or glorification? Are the ends your own personal wealth and promotion? Is your end reaching the top of the ladder of success? If so, all you will have when you get to heaven will be a pile of kindling wood. Somebody needs to be sure and bring the marshmallows.

On that day every impure motive will be revealed and all hypocrisy will be exposed. I pray the words of Paul will send shivers through your entire being when you read, "**That man shall suffer loss.**" This loss will be unlike any we may have experienced in this life in that it will be an eternal loss that can never be recovered. Let that sink in! I fear many today are on the pathway of loss.

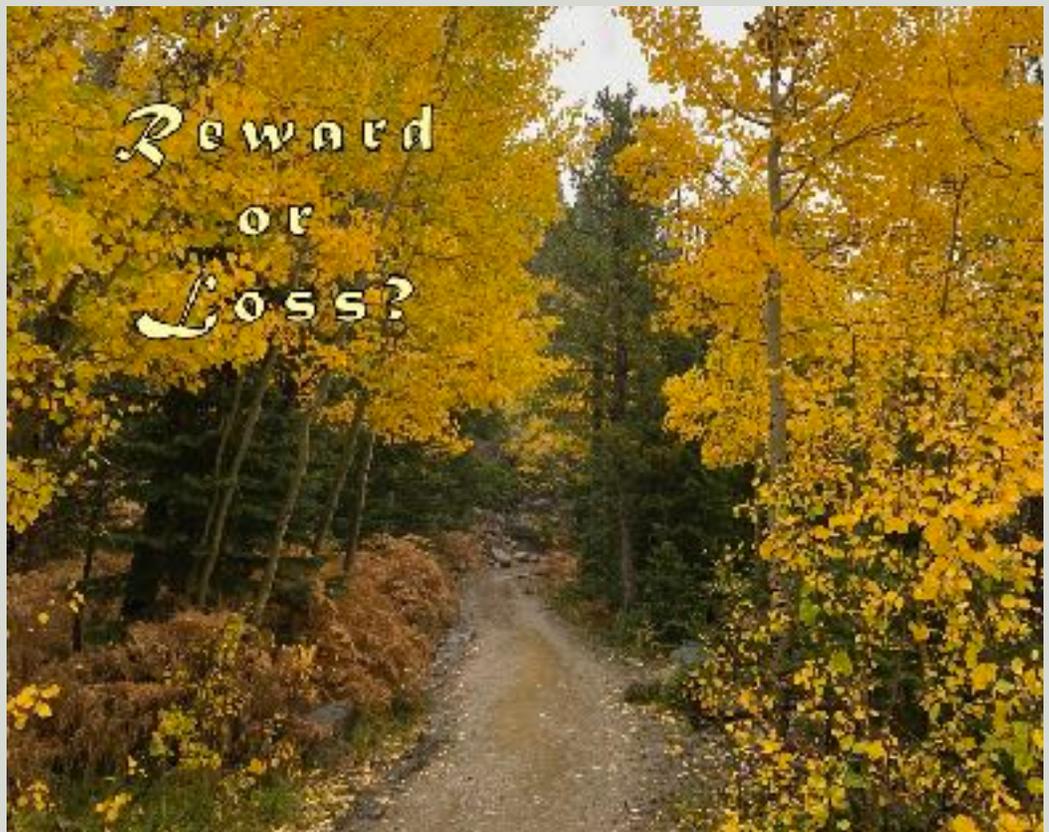
Thank God there is another path we can travel. This path is rich and fulfilling and ends with a great reward. Only those with a pure heart can walk on it because on this path our motives must be pure. Those who walk this path

do so only because they want to be pleasing to their Lord and they love people. Someday they will stand at the judgment seat of Christ with no fear because they will have spent a lifetime laying up treasure in heaven. I have a hunch that on that day the first shall be last, the last shall become first, the great will become small, and the servant shall become the ruler. I want to close by asking you...

"Which path have you chosen to walk?"

Revelation 22:12 WEB

12 "Behold, I come quickly. My reward is with me, to repay to each man according to his work.



AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH