

**Eternal Life is
absolutely free,**



**but
Eternal Rewards
are not.**

Whenever justification salvation is presented as a reward there are at least **three negative side effects**.

1. Gospel Garbled: We cannot evangelize clearly if we fail to recognize this difference. How can we help someone else find assurance if we are not sure ourselves? If we are wondering whether we have done enough to get into heaven, then we can't possibly share the good news clearly with others.
2. Assurance Annihilated: We can't be sure we are born again unless we know that eternal life is a gift that is received simply by faith in Jesus Christ. Only biblical gospel unmixed with rewards theology allows the Christian to remain sure that he has everlasting life.
3. Muddles Motivation: Instead of being motivated out of love, gratitude, and a desire for reward, we are motivated by fear of hell. Legalism is the offspring of insecurity.

John 6:47 and many other passages make it clear that the only thing God requires of us for eternal life is faith in His immutable promise. "He who believes in Me has everlasting life." This is important because, when we lose sight of this fact, all the rewards passages of the New Testament suddenly become a list of instructions for what we must do to obtain eternal life. And when people view rewards passages this way, assurance is lost and along with it, the most powerful motivation for serving God found in the Bible - gratitude for His 'indescribable gift' (2 Corinthians 9:15).
The Road to Reward by Robert N. Wilkin

"The **gift of God** [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom 6:23b

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the **gift of God**: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Eph 2:8 & 9

"[This is] a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to **maintain good works**. These things are good and profitable unto men." Titus 3:8