

## *What We Believe About Our Time on Earth*

The doctrinal statement says, “We believe that God deals with believers as children, that He chastises the disobedient, and that He rewards the obedient.”

Another way to put it is like this: “As children of God, He actively works in our lives to teach us to know and do His will—including disciplining us when we go astray. For the good things we do in this life, He will reward us with eternal rewards.”

## *Taking it Further ...*

The Bible teaches that God will repay us for what we do here on earth with rewards in heaven. Let’s look at some passages in the Bible that show these more.

Look up and read Matthew 19:27. What did Peter ask Jesus? Did it involve eternal rewards? *Peter asked Jesus that since he and the other disciples had left everything to follow Him, how would they be rewarded eternally.*

*Matthew 19:28 gives Jesus’ answer for Peter. He and the other disciples will sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Then in 19:29, Jesus talked about every other believe and their rewards.*

Look up and read Matthew 19:29. What are some things listed that Christians could receive? *Houses, brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, wives (KJV), children and fields.*

Are these things rewarded for things given up? How many times over will they be paid back? *Yes, the disciples had given up these things to follow Jesus. Jesus promised that any Christian who had given things up would be paid back 100 times. This doesn’t mean that we will have 100 wives, etc. It just means that we will be paid back much more than we give up.*

Does this mean that we might have to give up some things in order to serve Christ? *Yes, the most obvious things are time, money, and some enjoyable things. But it could include friends, as people turn against us for following Jesus.*

Look up and read 2 Corinthians 5:10. Are Christians going to be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ? *Yes, but this is not a judgment of whether or not we go to heaven. This is a judgment of rewards.*

What are Christians going to be judged for? *What we do in this life—the things that are worthwhile (good) or worthless (bad).*

What then, should be our focus in life? *Our focus should be to be responsible with the things God has given us.*

## *Locking It In ...*

**“Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for,  
but that you may be rewarded fully.”**

**2 John 8**