

SHAME
IN
HEAVEN

Now, little children, abide in Him,
so that when He appears, we
may have confidence and not shrink
away from Him in **shame** at His
coming. *1 John 2:28*

THE SHAME OF NO INHERITANCE

Some Christians think that all true believers get some rewards and an inheritance in heaven. Others believe that those who say they are Christians yet continue to practice sin are not really Christians. Both of these theories are incorrect. The Bible makes it very clear that salvation is a free gift; our behavior has absolutely nothing to do with it. But our behavior and works as true Christians are rewarded here and in eternity, and the eternal rewards are referred to as an "**inheritance**." Let us look at God's Word and see what He has to say.

Colossians 3:23-25 *"Whatever you do, do your **work** heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the **reward of the inheritance**. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. For he [the Christian] who does wrong will receive the consequences of the **wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.**"*

Galatians 5:16-21 *"But I say, [Christian] **walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh**. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that **those [Christians] who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**"*

Paul encourages the Galatian believers to be led by the Spirit rather than the flesh. Notice the list of things that can be done in the flesh. If true Christians practice such things, (and die unrepentant,) verse 21 says they will not "inherit the kingdom of God." It does not say they will lose their salvation, or that these people were never saved. The warning is to true Christians concerning loss of rewards, and **NO INHERITANCE!**

1 Corinthians 6:8-10 *"On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud. You do this even to your brethren. Or do you not know that*

*the unrighteous [Christians] will **not inherit the kingdom of God?** Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, **will inherit the kingdom of God.**"*

Here the Apostle Paul warns the Corinthian saints as he warned the Galatians, "**do not be deceived!**" If they practice unconfessed sin they "will not inherit the kingdom of God." NO INHERITANCE.

Ephesians 5:1-7 *"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. **But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints**; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. **For this you know with certainty, that no** [saint who is] **immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the **wrath of God** [discipline] comes upon the sons of disobedience [carnal Christians]. **Therefore do not be partakers with them;**"*

As the apostle Paul warned the Galatian and Corinthian saints, he also faithfully warns the Ephesians of what "is proper among saints." Those saints who die practicing sin, or are practicing sin when the Lord returns, will have **no inheritance**. Here he again adds the warning, "**Let no one deceive you with empty words.**" There are many who try to argue with and distort these obvious Biblical truths. They are as Jude 4 warns, "...ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness [no self-restraint, selfishness]..." But the "wrath of God" WILL come upon those carnal Christians who practice what it says in verses 4 and 5. These are the "sons of disobedience," in verse 6. Can a believer be a "partaker," and become one of them? The obvious answer is "yes," but we are warned not to be disobedient sons, incurring our Father's wrath, and losing the **REWARD OF THE INHERITANCE.**

Colossians 3:5-6 *"Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed,*

*which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the **wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience**, and in them [the sins] you also once walked, when you were living in them."*

The warning to the saints at Colossae is, do not be "sons of disobedience." As Paul has warned the other saints, if their disobedience is not corrected, will bring about God's wrath, and **LOSS OF INHERITANCE**.

SHAMEFUL LOSS AT THE BEMA SEAT

1 Cor. 3:13–15 *each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of **each man's work**. If **any man's work** which he has built on it remains, he will receive a **reward**. If any man's work is burned up, he will **suffer loss**; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

2 Cor. 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment (bema) seat of Christ, so that **each one** may be **recompensed for his deeds** in the body, according to what he has done, **whether good or bad**.*

2 John 8 *Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.*

SHAME OF SOILED GARMENTS

Rev. 3:4 *'But you have a few people in [the church of] Sardis who have not **soiled their garments**; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.*

SHAME OF NAKEDNESS

Rev. 3:17–18 *'Because you [in the church of Laodicea] say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and **naked**, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and **white garments** so that you may clothe yourself, and that the **shame of your nakedness** will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.*

Rev. 16:15 (“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and **keeps his clothes**, so that he will not walk about **naked** and men will not see **his shame**.”)

THE KING’S SHAMEFULLY-DRESSED FRIEND

Matt. 22:12–13 and he [the king] said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here **without wedding clothes?**’ And the man was speechless. “Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the **outer darkness**; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

THE MASTER’S WORTHLESS SLAVE

Matt. 25:27-28, 30 ‘Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents. Throw out the **worthless slave** into the **outer darkness**; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

THE MASTER’S HYPOCRITICAL SLAVE

Matt. 24:50–51 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and assign him **a place with the hypocrites**; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

SHAME OR HONOR

John 12:25–26 “He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. “**If anyone serves Me**, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; **if anyone serves Me**, the Father will **honor him**.”

OUTSIDE THE CITY-- NO TREE OF LIFE

Rev. 22:14-15, Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. **Outside [the city] are the [Christian] dogs and the sorcerers**

and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

Revelation 22:19 *and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the **tree of life** and from the **holy city**, which are written in this book.*

OUTER DARKNESS OUTSIDE THE NEW CITY

Rev. 21:23–27 *And **the city** [New Jerusalem] **has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it**, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by **its light**, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into **it**. In the daytime (for **there will be no night there**) its gates will never be closed; and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into **it**; and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are [still] written in the Lamb's book of life.*

GOD'S PEOPLE BLOTTED FROM THE BOOK . . .

Exo. 32:30-34 *On the next day Moses said to the people, "You yourselves have committed a great sin; and now I am going up to the LORD, perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." Then Moses returned to the LORD, and said, "Alas, this people has committed a great sin, and they have made a god of gold for themselves. But now, if You will, forgive their sin—and if not, **please blot me out from Your book** which You have written!" **The LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.** But go now, lead the people where I told you. Behold, My angel shall go before you; **nevertheless in the day when I punish, I will punish them for their sin.**" (Miriam, Aaron, and Moses, with the rest, died in the wilderness. Out of over 600,000 Jewish men, only Joshua, Caleb, their families, the Levites and children entered the Promised Land.)*

. . . AS EXAMPLES FOR US CHRISTIANS

1 Cor. 10:1-6 *For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the*

same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, **with most of them God was not well pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.** Now these things happened as **examples for us**, that **we** should not crave evil things as **they** also craved.

Hebrews 3:5–6 Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house **we** are, **if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.**

Hebrews 3:12–14 Take care, **brethren**, that there not be in any one of **you** an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of **you** will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. **For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,**

Hebrews 4:11 **Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.**

SHAMEFUL CHRISTIANS' NAMES ERASED

Rev. 3:5 **He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.**

HOW TO AVOID SHAME IN HEAVEN

PROPER DRESS AND HAIR

Deuteronomy 22:5 “A woman shall not wear man’s clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman’s clothing; for **whoever does these things is an abomination** to the LORD your God.

1 Timothy 2:9 Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with **proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments,**

1 Corinthians 11:5, 14-15 *But every woman who has her head **uncovered** while praying or prophesying **disgraces** her head, for she is one and the **same** as the woman whose head is **shaved**.*

14-15 *Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a **dishonor** to him, but if a woman has long hair, it is a **glory** to her? For her **hair** is given to her for a covering.*

GOOD WORKS

Ephesians 2:8–10 *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would **walk** in them.*

Colossians 3:23–25 *Whatever you do, **do your work** heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive **the reward of the inheritance**. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. For he [the Christian] who does **wrong** will receive the consequences of the **wrong** which he has done, and that without partiality.*

Revelation 2:23, 25–26 *‘And I will kill her [Christian] children with pestilence, and **all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds**.*

*‘Nevertheless what you have, **hold fast** until I come. ‘He who **overcomes**, and he who **keeps My deeds until the end**, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;*

Revelation 22:12 *“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My **reward** is with Me, to render to every man **according to what he has done**.*