

## The Gold standard

**There is a clear difference between those that are headed to Hell and those that lose rewards** - 1 Cor 3:10-15 - 10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But **each one should be careful how he builds.** 11 **For NO ONE CAN LAY ANY FOUNDATION OTHER THAN THE ONE ALREADY LAID, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST.** 12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 **his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light.** It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; **he himself will be saved,** but only as one escaping through the flames.

**Understand what the true purpose is, and who the true purpose is for** - Gal 6:7-9 - 7 **Do not be deceived:** God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

**The correct path will require reverence** - Phil 2:12-13 - 12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — **continue to work out your salvation with FEAR AND TREMBLING,** 13 for **it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.**

**What we do, MUST display God** - 1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or **whatever you do, DO IT ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.**

**To display God correctly, it must be HIM AND ONLY HIM** - Titus 1:15-16 - 15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. 16 They **claim to know God, but BY THEIR ACTIONS THEY DENY HIM.** They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

**We must understand that “Good things” are Godly and defined by God only** - Matt 19:16-22- 16 Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what **good thing** must I do to get eternal life?" 17 "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "**There is only One who is good.** If you want to enter life, obey the commandments." 18 "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, 19 honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" 20 "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" 21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. **Then come, follow me.**" 22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

**We must live trustworthy to God** - Luke 16:10-12 - 10 "**Whoever can be TRUSTED with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.**" 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

**We must not mistake “works that bring gifts” with our life responsibilities which include taking care of the unfortunate and of those in need** - (Matt 25:31-46) The Sick, In prison, the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger

**Not doing our life responsibilities, means we've stepped off the foundation and are in eternal danger** –

Matt 25:40-41 - 40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' 41 **Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.**

Matt 25:45-46 45 "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, **whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'** 46 **Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.**"

**God provides an example of the only way to build on the foundation of Christ and to stay responsible**

**The life stage is set and shows what is expected** - Matt 25:14-21 - 14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. 15 To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each **according to his ability\***. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. 17 So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. 18 But **the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.** 19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' 21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

**\*The talent is the life you have and the ability is what God has given you to achieve the right outcome**

**There will be no excuse for doing nothing** - Matt 25:24-30 24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 **So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground.** See, here is what belongs to you.' 26 "His master replied, '**You wicked, lazy servant!** So **you knew** that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. 28 "'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. 29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. 30 And **throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'**

**Summed up, we are to run the God provided life, and do it His way without giving up** - Heb 12:1-3 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and →

→ **let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.** 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 **Consider him** who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.