

The broader context is James offering the “crown of life” to those believers who remain steadfast in the faith by performing good works and persevering through the trials of life.

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.”

James 1:2-4, 12 ESV

So “can that faith save him”, where the emphasis is put on the man making a decision to perform a “good” work of faith in helping the poor which I will suggest is part of the trials of life. This broader context shows clearly that the “works” that lead to reward also called “glorification salvation” is the main theme to the twelve tribes of “brothers” who are running their race in Jesus Christ!

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

Philippians 2:12-13 ESV

*We cannot “workout” something we don’t already possess. Again in the broader context of the book of Philippians, Pauls teachings throughout his epistles to the church, and the entire new covenant teachings, we can see clearly the same concept. That “good” works that please God receive a future “salvation” of rewards and inheritance. Please notice also the personal application of “your own” salvation.

“Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:13-14 ESV

*This same theme remains incredibly consistent throughout the New Testament instructions and incentives to the church of God!

““I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first...But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. “I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. But I have this against

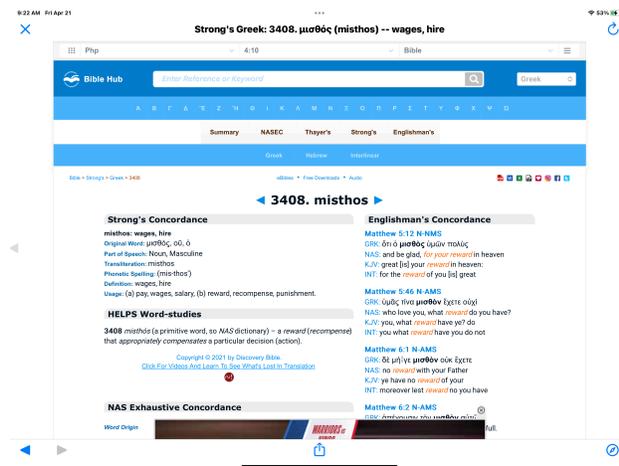
you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.”
 Revelation 2:2, 4, 14, 19-20 ESV

*a few examples of our Lord evaluating is own body the church.

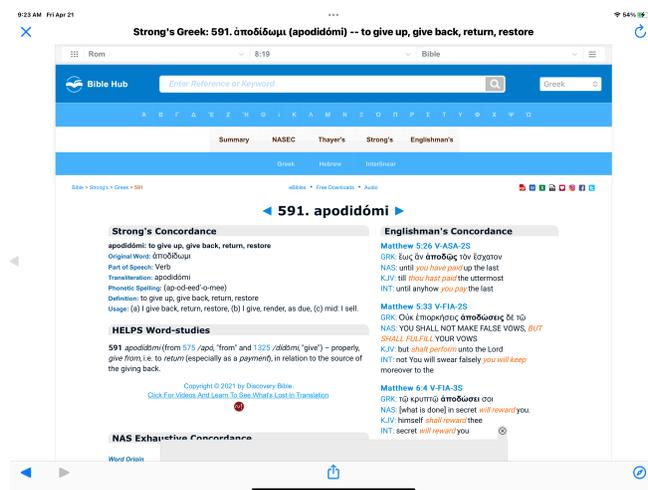
*If we always rightly divided the difference between the two different types of works and the different types of salvation there would be no confusion and only freedom, harmony, and union!

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”
 Revelation 22:12-13 ESV

*recompense



*repay



*clearly we have been called through the “work” of Jesus to be Gods workmanship performing the “good” works that He promises to compensate us for in the end. One of the greatest warnings to the church by the Apostles are to miss out on receiving this “wage” and experiencing the deep regret that follows. In a future “myth” busting episode we will focus on the difference between “works of the Law” and “works of faith”.

Questions for contemplation:

1. Can you imagine living your life now without due “compensation” for your works? Explain.
2. What type of government structure do you suppose would exist if this concept of “just compensation” didn’t exist? What has this looked like throughout history?
3. How is the biblical concept of “reaping and sowing” similar or different?
4. Have you every been guilty what is called “concept totality transfer”, taking a word used in the Bible out of its context and always applying the same “concept” you have learned about that word to every passage it is used in? How has this happened with the “concept” of salvation and works?
5. Can you see how the seeming “contradictions” in the Bible concerning these topics have caused divisions among us? Or at the very least caused us to look away or just accept on blind faith? Can every word and passage of the Bible come into harmony and achieve Jesus Christs final prayer before He went to the cross?

“They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

John 17:16-21 ESV

*Remember be a good Berean and be diligent in studying the scriptures to show yourself approved and encourage others to do the same!