Fueling Station 5 Canteen: "To repay everyone" Pitfall: "not of works lest any man boast"



Intro: "Works" has always been a volatile word in the church of God. There have been many a scholarly battle take place over the passages concerning this topic. As a reminder, if you don't have a complete understanding of the 3 parts to salvation, you will never understand the passages about "works". We will make a clear distinction between the "work of Christ" and our call to "good" works in the Spirit of Christ. The works of Christ not only gave us the free gift of justification but it earned Jesus the right to rule over the earth taken away from Adam.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10 ESV

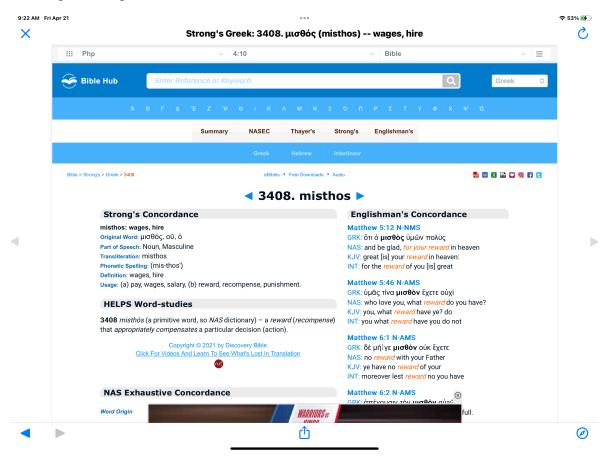
*are there two different meanings in these passages of work? The first passage in context to the book of Ephesians is clearly referring to the "works" of our Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf and given as a "gift of God". The term "that no one may boast" is crucial to both the Jewish nation and the Gentile nations because they are both on equal footing at the cross of Christ. The second passage speaks clearly of the "good" works that should come out this receiving of Gods gift if we choose to walk in the Spirit!

Now concerning repayment for these good works which are called wages in the instructions to the church:

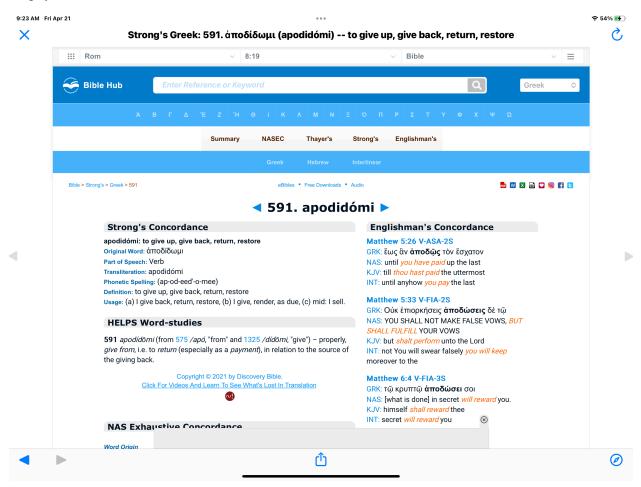
"They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, <u>and to God the things that are God's</u>." Matthew 22:21 ESV

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

*recompense/wages



*repay/render



*The concept of wages and repayment carry the same incentives as the job market does today. We commonly understand that our earthly work for our company/boss renders us a repayment of wages. A bad job can be repaid with reprimand, demotion, and being fired. Whereas a good job can be paid wages of provision, bonuses, and advancement. Our Heavenly Father is no different as the owner of the company/kingdom, He has "hired" us in Christ to do the works required and receive the appropriate compensation. This compensation comes with earthly promises now and more importantly future promises during the return of Jesus to set up His kingdom on earth.

"Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, <u>there is no one</u> who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, <u>for my sake</u> and for the gospel, who will not <u>receive a</u> <u>hundredfold now in this time</u>, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, <u>and in the age to come eternal life</u>." Mark 10:29-30 ESV

*Jesus has a clear message to those who follow Him for the good news of the kingdom, you will benefit both in this lifetime and in the next.

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and <u>forfeits his soul</u>? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and <u>then</u> he will <u>repay each person according to what he has done</u>." Matthew 16:26-27 ESV

"He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his <u>wages according to his</u> <u>labor</u>. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will <u>receive a reward</u>. If <u>anyone's work</u> is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire."

1 Corinthians 3:8, 14-15 ESV

"Watch yourselves, so that you may <u>not lose what we have worked for</u>, but may win a <u>full</u> <u>reward</u>. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not <u>abide in the teaching</u> of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son." 2 John 1:8-9 ESV

"The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the <u>time for the dead to be judged</u>, and for <u>rewarding your servants</u>, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth."" Revelation 11:18 ESV

*Race to the kingdom believes the good works we are to perform are many and varied and according to all the instructions to the church written as commands.

1,050 New Testament Commands:

http://www.biblicalresearchreports.com/gods-commands-in-the-new-testament/

https://www.abc.net.au/reslib/201407/r1308729_17984331.pdf

Hearty warnings of receiving a bad repayment when Jesus returns:

"Behold, the <u>wages of the laborers</u> who mowed your fields, which <u>you kept back</u> by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have <u>lived on the earth</u> in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in <u>a</u> <u>day of slaughter</u>. Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. <u>Establish your hearts</u>, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." James 5:4-5, 7-8 ESV

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that <u>each one may receive what is</u> <u>due</u> for what he has done in the body, whether <u>good or evil</u>."

2 Corinthians 5:10 ESV

"But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are <u>storing up</u> wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when <u>God's righteous judgment</u> will be revealed. to those who by patience <u>in welldoing</u> seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for <u>those who are</u> <u>self-seeking</u> and do not obey the truth, but <u>obey unrighteousness</u>, there will be wrath and fury. There will be <u>tribulation and distress for every human</u> being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace <u>for everyone who does good</u>, the Jew first and also the Greek. For <u>God shows no partiality</u>." Romans 2:5, 7-11 ESV

*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. So to wrap up, the wages of sin is death to inheritance, but the wages of faithfulness is "well done" enter into the joy of your master! 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 <u>in</u> the truth; <u>your word</u> 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 <u>one</u>, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, <u>so that</u> 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!