

“THE LIFE GOD REWARDS” Big Idea . . . Part 2: An Unbreakable Link

Intro: What we do on earth impacts what we do in heaven. Many wrongly believe that heaven will be the same experience for every believer – that nothing we do now can affect eternity. The NT gives us a true picture (Matt. 16:27; 19:27-30; 2 Cor. 5:10). In eternity some will have more rewards, more authority, and more responsibility in heaven (Matt. 25:20-21). I’m sure most believers have not understood this or they’d pursue a stronger Christian walk.

MAIN EVENTS OF OUR FOREVER LIFE – Everyone experiences:

1. **LIFE.** We are created in the image of God for a life of purpose. This is our NOW life (Gen. 1:26-27; Psa. 139:13-16).
2. **DEATH.** We die physically, but not spiritually (Lk. 23:43; Heb. 9:27; 2 Cor. 5:8).
3. **DESTINATION.** We reach our destination immediately after death (heaven or hell), which is determined by what we believed here (Jn. 3:16-18; 5:24).
4. **RESURRECTION.** Each receives a resurrected glorified body for the eternal state (Jn. 5:28-29; Phil. 3:21; 1 Cor. 15:35-43).
5. **REPAYMENT.** Each receives reward or retribution for eternity based on what we did on earth (in terms of what we believed and behaved). Judgment for the *believer* - Bema (Jn. 5:22; 2 Cor. 5:10) and the *unbeliever* – GWT (Rev. 20:11-15). The outcome will determine our degree of reward in heaven or retribution in hell (Matt. 11:21-22; 23:14).
6. **ETERNITY.** We will forever live in the presence or absence of God, reaping the consequences of what we believed and how we behaved on earth. Real life in real places forever (Matt. 25:46).

NOTE: To keep the timeline of events simple, some future events, such as the Rapture, Tribulation, Second Coming, MK...were not included. I’ve tried to describe a broad view of events everyone will experience. Also note most of our life occurs after death!

MAKE THE CONNECTION-THE UNBREAKABLE LINK

Too many miss this. When carefully examine the main events of our forever life, we must notice that *our life now is directly impacting everything that will happen to us after we die*. There’s a Law of the

Unbreakable Link: *Our choices on earth have direct consequences on our life in eternity*. He promises to reward each of us according to our works (Matt. 16:27; Rom. 2:6).

QUESTION: “Doesn’t God’s forgiveness remove all consequences?”

His forgiveness doesn’t remove natural (human) consequences for our sins (adultery, robbery, etc.). Earthly consequences happen. God’s forgiveness removes all consequences in terms of eternal destination, but not in terms of eternal compensation or rewards (1 Cor. 3:15 “suffer loss” – of reward).

COMPARE THE TWO KEYS (BELIEF/Faith & BEHAVIOR/Works) THE DOT VS. THE LINE (R. Alcorn)

I want to show you a picture that helps us keep in mind the reality of the unbreakable link as we make our choices every day. Below is a dot and a line. The line represents eternity. The dot is our life on earth (75-80 yrs). Jesus’ teaching shows that *What happens inside the dot determines everything that happens on the line*. Every choice (action), small or large, inside the dot results in corresponding consequences on the line of outstanding proportions! Matt. 6:19-23



CONC: Understanding the Law of the Unbreakable Link changes everything NOW. So, let me ask, “Have you been living for the line or for the dot?”