

**Persuasion, No Penance, Plus the Prize
Life Is a Gift; Rewards Are Not**

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Introduction

The Pastor & the Professor

April 4, 2017

Review

False Syllogism (Accepted by Calvinists, Arminians, Catholics, and even cults):

Major Premise: All who will live together with God forever will endure to the end in faith and good works.

Minor Premise: People cannot know that they will endure to the end in faith and good works.

Conclusion: People cannot know whether they will live together with God forever.

True Syllogism:

Major Premise: All who will be highly rewarded believers will endure to the end in faith and good works.

Minor Premise: Believers cannot know that they will endure to the end in faith and good works.

Conclusion: Believers cannot know whether they will be highly rewarded.

Why Is the False Syllogism False? Ephesians 2:1-10

By-Grace-Salvation is the gift of God [not a good deal]

(Ephesians 2:1-9)

Even though you [Gentiles] were dead... (2:1)

and we [Jews] were dead... (2:5)

God...made us alive together with Christ
raised *us* up together [with Christ],
and seated *us* together [with Christ]... } = { **(by grace you have been saved)**,
 (2:5-6)

For **by grace you have been saved [made alive]** through faith
And **that [by-grace-salvation]** is not of yourselves,
it [the by-grace salvation] is the gift of God,
[it: the by-grace-salvation] is not of works,
lest anyone should boast **[about possessing this by-grace-salvation]**. (2:8-9)

What was our condition when we believed? We have been saved [made alive] through faith.

Does (1) faith precede re-generation or (2) does regeneration precede faith? _____

We were _____ when we believed (we were made alive through faith)

What does *dead* mean in this context? Note Ephesians 4:17-18

Good works are not a proof of salvation, but a corporate design (2:10)

For we are His masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

PLURAL	PLURAL	VERSUS	PLURAL	SINGULAR
We are	relatives		We are	a family
We are	residents		We are	a community
We are	His masterpieces		We are	His masterpiece

This verse gives no basis for fruit inspection.

It does not support the false syllogism.

First Reason that Calvinists and Arminians Minimize the Doctrine of Rewards:

Calvinists: If one does not endure in faith and good works, he/she never truly believed.

How much room does that leave for rewardable service?

Arminians: If one does not endure in faith and good works, he/she is no longer saved.

How much room does that leave for rewardable service?

Second Reason Calvinists and Arminians Minimize the Doctrine of Rewards

Isn't seeking a reward selfish?

Doesn't it conflict with non-meritorious grace?

The Importance of Rewards: Reward/wages (*misthos*) appears 29 times.

Matt 5:12, 46; 6:1-2, 5, 16; 10:41a, 41b, 42; 20:8*; Mark 9:41; Luke 6:23, 35; 10:7*; John 4:36*; Acts 1:18*; Rom 4:4*; 1 Cor 3:8, 14; 9:17-18; 1 Tim 5:18*; James 5:4*; 2 Pet 2:13*, 15*; 2 John 1:8; Jude 1:11*; Rev 11:18; 22:12. [asterisked references render it as *wages*]

The idea of reward appears also in a multitude of passages that do not use the word.

The Difference between a gift and a reward: Romans 4:4-5

A gift is unmerited

A reward is merited

However, James 2:13 speaks of the mercy-multiplier

The Woman at the Well

The woman came to get water

The disciples went to get food

Jesus acquaints the disciples with satisfying food

Conclusion