

# Practicing Disciples

## The Payoff

2 Timothy 1:11-12 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. <sup>12</sup> That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

### I. Stop Practicing/Out of Practice

Deuteronomy 34:4-7 (NASB)

<sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see *it* with your eyes, but you shall not go over there." <sup>5</sup> So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> And He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor; but no man knows his burial place to this day. <sup>7</sup> Although Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died, his eye was not dim, nor his vigor abated.

### II. The Rewards

#### A. Under the Sun

Matthew 6:2-4 (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Mark 10:28-30 (NIV)

<sup>28</sup> Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!"<sup>29</sup> "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel <sup>30</sup> will fail to receive a hundred times as **much in this present age** (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields--and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.

Isaiah 1:19 (NIV)

<sup>19</sup> If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land;

#### B. Long Term Benefits

Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)

<sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, <sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Hebrews 11:26 (NIV) [Moses]

<sup>26</sup> He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NASB)

<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; <sup>8</sup> in the future there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

#### C. Considered Responses

1. Rejoicing, insults & criticism
2. Serve God by serving people
3. Different perspectives
4. Contentment & satisfaction

## D. Jesus, our model

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

. . . 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Philippians 2:8-11 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup> **Therefore God exalted him** to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Galatians 6:7, 9 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. . . . <sup>9</sup> Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time **we will reap a harvest** if we do not give up.

## E. Overcomers

Revelation 21:6-8 (NIV)

<sup>6</sup> He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup> **He who overcomes will inherit all this**, and I will be his God and he will be my son. <sup>8</sup> But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 (NIV)

<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? **Run in such a way as to get the prize.** <sup>25</sup> Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

## Prayer

God has uniquely blessed us --- the best is yet to come.

God has heard our prayers.

God has healed our bodies.

God has restored our marriages.

God has protected our children.

God has delivered us from oppression.

We live in a season of shaking. God is shaking the earth.

He is restoring the Jewish people and purifying His Church.

If we look at the things which can be shaken we will be filled with terror.

If we look at the eternal Kingdom of our Lord, we will be filled with anticipation.

Our determination as we gather today is to declare before one another & Almighty God --- WE WILL NOT STOP.

We are not satisfied.

We are not distracted.

We are not weary in doing good.

We are not discouraged.

We have our eyes on the cross and our hearts set on the prize.

We believe the One who has promised is Faithful.

We believe the Holy Spirit is our Helper.

We believe that what we ask in Jesus' name our Father provides.

We believe that the King of Kings is returning to the earth in all of His glory --- and we intend to be about His business until that moment in time.

WE WILL NOT STOP.