

"So that a man shall say, 'Verily there is a reward for the righteous: Verily He is a God that judgeth in the earth.'" Psalms 58:11 KJV

S&H green stamps were prized by shoppers for the rewards that could be obtained from collecting them. It was like saving pennies without really trying. The number of S&H stamps was based on the total spent. You then pasted them in booklets and turned them in for merchandise. Small items required few stamps, but you had to save up for the larger items. If you were collecting, you shopped at the S&H sign. Everything you do is for reward. You work for the reward of wages. You exercise for the reward of strength. You eat right for the reward of health. You go to dentists for the reward of less pain and doctors for healing. What rewards your choices? *"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* We lay up treasure in heaven through faith. Faith is



Heaven's gold. *"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. For without faith it is impossible to please [God]. And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."* Do you serve God or self? Is pleasure your treasure or God's favor? Then you have your reward. *"Woe unto the wicked! It shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him. For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."* What is your eternal soul worth? What would you pay to live joyful forever without pain, sorrow, or loss with your friends and loved ones?

Robe of righteousness, not mine own, for Blood of Christ my sin atoned:
Rewarding me for naught I've done; I did but simply, humbly come.
His Love was giv'n before twas sought; my soul, with His own Blood, He bought;
That I might live forever free! O praise His name! Christ ransomed me! ~CGP

Isn't happiness and joy the ultimate reward of any endeavor? God has promised eternal joy to those who obey Him through faith. *"Ye love [Christ], though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."* Paul said this, *"I count all things but loss...and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ...not having mine own righteousness...but that...which is of God by faith."* What is eternal joy worth to you? Are you saving your reward for Heaven's Prize? Are you living by sight or by faith?

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, 'If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works.'" Matthew 16:24-27 KJV