

How Much Does the Lord Expect from Me?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Matt. 10:28-42 - Read

1. When we pray for something and don't get it, when we desperately need help with or relief from sorrow or burdens and none is forthcoming, or when we deeply miss someone or something we surrendered up for Christ, we feel that God has somehow let us down, or that He doesn't care as much as He professes, or that He isn't there.
2. It is in those moments that we get a small taste of what God must experience constantly when people who have made commitments and promises to Him fail in keeping them.

B. Disappointing God - Gen. 6:6; 1Sam. 15:10-11

1. The failures of men disappoint God. How can God who knows all things at all times be disappointed when we break His confidence in us?
2. Because He loves us and is sad for us when we fail and fall short; He is disappointed by how much we hurt ourselves when we break our word

C. When we validate His confidence in us, He rejoices - Isa. 62:4-5

D. God is not self-centered. Whether we keep our word to Him or fail Him, He still loves us and takes care of us; it is not about Him - Matt. 5:44-45

1. We can conclude that whatever God wants from us, whatever He asks us to give, whatever He commands us to do, it is not about Him; it is for us and our best interest.

I. WHAT DOES GOD WANT FROM US?

A. He put us in this world so that we would want to come to His

1. Acts 17:24-28

B. He put us in this body so that we would want one like His

1. Psalm 139:13-14; 1Cor. 6:19-20, 15:51-54; 2Cor. 5:1-5

C. He put us in a world where we can choose to sin or be saved, hoping we would choose to be saved

1. 1Tim. 2:3-6, 1:12-16

D. He asks for our temporary life in this world to be given to Him so that He can give us eternal life in heaven with Him

1. Luke 9:23-24; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 1:3-10

E. He asks us to glorify Him here so that He may exalt and glorify us in heaven

1. 1Cor. 10:31; 1Peter 2:12; Psalm 37:34; 1Peter 5:6

F. He expects us to keep our word to Him so that His conditional promises to us can come to pass

1. When He created humankind, God had exactly the relationship He wanted with them -- a face to face relationship.
2. Since Adam and Eve fell to temptation and sin, God has been working to restore that relationship - Gen. 3:15; Matt. 1:21; 1John 4:9
3. The Gospel was not given to condemn us but to save us - John 3:16-17
1John 2:5-6, 3:1-3; Rom. 1:16-17; 1Cor. 15:1-2

4. "The gospel is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of life. It cannot be grasped by reason and memory only, but it is fully understood when it possesses the whole soul and penetrates to the inner recesses of the heart." (John Calvin)

Conclusion:

- A. God does not want anything from us for Him; what He expects from us is for us to act in our own best interest. What He wants from us -- is for us.
- B. God's defining characteristic is love - 1John 4:8.
 1. The defining characteristic of His love is unselfishness manifested by His grace
 2. Nothing He has done for us or requires of us is for Him; it is for us.
- C. Don't you think it is high time we did all that He expects of us?
 1. Don't you think it is past time for us to stop disappointing Him by failing to meet His expectations for our own good?