

Don't Lose Your Rewards After the Rapture at the Judgment Seat of Christ

Colossians 2:18

1 **Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize** (King James) **Let no one beguile/deceive you of your reward.**

(NIV) **do not let anyone disqualify you.**

(English Standard Version) **Let no one disqualify you**

(International Standard Version) **let no one cheat you out of /prize**

(New Heart English Bible) **Let no one rob you of your prize**

(God's Word Translation) **let no one tell you that you don't deserve a prize**

(Douay-Rheims Bible) **let no man seduce you**

(Wuest) **let no one as a judge declare you unworthy of a reward**

(note the number of ways of interpreting Colossians 2:18)

not defraud you;

not deceive you;

not disqualify you, cheat you, rob you,

tell you that you don't deserve a prize, seduce you,

act as your judge and declare you unworthy.

Each of these are attempts to translate the **PRESENT IMPERATIVE** of the rather complex compound verb

katabrabeuo where the prefix ***kata*** carries the idea of **against** and the root word means **to be a judge or umpire**, and therefore gives awards or the prize in a public game. Or to judge against someone in a game therefore to defraud or deprive of the prize.

This word always carries the negative impact of making judgment against, to condemn, to defraud or to deprive. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary of New Testament and Vol. 3 of the Complete Biblical Library)

The ideal of defrauding or deceiving or cheating comes from the prefix ***kata***—*against*.

The main point to grasp from this word is that we are not to allow anyone to act as our judge so as to cheat us out of the prize. The **PRESENT** means be on guard all the time...everyday in your life, especially after you fail, because this is when you will hear it the loudest!

The challenge is in the IMPERATIVE MOOD, which we have seen is further removed from reality. Believers can be talked out of seeking this prize by listening to people.

This is up to each one of us! *Not to allow anyone to disqualify us from the prize, from the reward.*

One more point before we move on:

In verse 16 **no one is to judge you** (Introduces the attacks of legalism.)

Then we had in verse 4 **no one delude you**

(Then in verse 8) **no one takes you captive**

(And now) **let no one keep defrauding you of your prize**

You can't believe the number of attacks Satan has against born-again believers.

The Greek in the opening of verse 8, sets up an interesting opposition. It starts out...

No one (you)
Who is this **no one**?

We ran into this in Galatians 1:6-7

6 **I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;**

7 **which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.**

Here we have two objectives:

DISTURB BELIEVERS TRYING TO GROW IN THE WORD
and
TO DISTORT THE GOSPEL.

Then in Galatians 3:1

1 **You non-thinking Galatians, who has charmed you**

So here added to disturbing you and distorting the gospel, we have how they use charm to move us away from the truth.

Then in Galatians 5:7

7 **You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?**

You have to watch for that word *hinder*. It is an Olympic expression related to a race, meaning to come across the course in such a manner as to jostle and throw a participant out of the way—to impede you in your spiritual life.

People, I know that often we do not see what is happening in our lives to distract us from the study of the Word of God; *from attending the assembly to grow in the knowledge of JESUS CHRIST and of God the Father.*

If we were in a sporting event—we could see that we were ‘blind-sided’ and make corrections, we could see various movements by the opponents but in the **Invisible Spiritual Warfare**, we are not as alert, we do not readily see why we are not growing Spiritually.

Sometimes it is pure and simply our flesh nature, but there are so many different movements to appeal to our flesh nature that we do not even see it as an attack to our spiritual momentum. But at the end of just one month, take a look at how many assembly meetings in the study of the Word of God that you missed! And you can then notice how the enemy works.

Now back to this **no one** at the beginning of verse 18.

So, the First Question: Who is this **no one**?

- (1) False teachers: who in verse 4 delude you with persuasive arguments –that sounds so good; or who in verse 8 takes you captive with empty deceptional-teaching,
- (2) Legalist verse 16
- (3) Ritualist
- (4) Judaizers
- (5) Those whose objective is to distort the truth of the gospel

- (6) Those who seek to hinder your advancement in the Spiritual life
- (7) Those who seek to appeal to your flesh nature to hinder your running in the spiritual race.

And the list goes on and on. But remember the chief-leader opposing your spiritual life is none other than Satan, the great dragon, the serpent of old, the devil, who deceives the whole world. Revelation 12:9

But not only do these enemies set up traps and hindrances in the race but they also attack you physically. An Olympic participant must watch his food intake and watch his intake of water—are you getting enough of the Word of God?

Then, of course, there is weakness but you are not strong in yourself: Zechariah 4:6

6 **Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by (human) might nor by (human) power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.**

So, the make-up of the Olympian believer is the power of the Holy Spirit and the nourishment of the Word of God and the perseverance of Faith.

Colossians 2:18

18 **No one...you.**

The believer who cares about his life in Christ and his prize in Eternity. **Keep defrauding you of your prize**

The reason, Paul says... **no one keep defrauding you of your prize** is because they were allowing these things to happen to them and Paul exhorts them to stop allowing this to happen in their spiritual journey.

And so, the FIRST QUESTION arises:

Now the SECOND QUESTION:

What Reward?

What Prize?

There are several passages that speak of this Reward.

First: Hebrews 10:35-36

35 **Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.**

36 **For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.**

Reward A something given in recognition of one's service, effort, or achievement:

In our discussion—given for service, or achievement of the believer while here on earth.

Second: From our Lord: Matthew 6:19

19 **"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.**

20 **"But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;**

And here is the secret:

What do you consider a treasure?

What do you consider wealth?

And as you think about this note, verse 21

for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- > Is it money?
- > Looks?
- > Wealth?
- > Success?
- > Things:
(like a Porsche)
(or as my 10-year old grandson would prefer a
Lamborghini Veneno Roadster)
(Bugatti;)
or
- > A Resort Castle, etc.

What is **YOUR** treasure?

Third: Colossians 3:23-24

23 **Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,**

24 **knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.**

THIRD QUESTION:

How do you store up treasures in heaven?
Should you even desire to store up treasures in heaven?

We will answer these questions later but for now...note carefully that this is your Savior JESUS CHRIST speaking—exhorting us to desire to store up treasures in heaven for yourselves.

Think about it, Jesus encourages us to lay up treasures in heaven.

We will see later, How...—**How do we store up treasures in heaven?**

Many believers under false humility, humbly bow their heads and piously say something like, ***“I don’t want rewards”, “I am doing it out of love for JESUS CHRIST or love for others.”***

Please be aware this is the first way they defraud a believer out of his/her reward or prize.

Note carefully Colossians 2:18

18 **no one (you) let default you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement**

We will study this later but for now, note that this false humility is one of the great ways of charming believers out of their rewards... be humble and not desire your prize laid up for you.

By time we have completed this short study, it is my prayer that **every one of you will have a deep desire for rewards after you die!**

FOURTH QUESTION:

When and Where will these rewards, prizes be distributed?
and... Who judges who receives these rewards?

Answer:

At the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Every one of you will stand before JESUS CHRIST after death.

The Flow of History that affects us...

- {1} **The Incarnation**, that is God becoming man—First Advent of Jesus as the Christ, the promised Messiah
- {2} **The sinless life of JESUS CHRIST** qualifying Him to go to the cross for all mankind.
- {3} **His death on the cross**, bearing the judgment for all the sins of the world—unbelievers and believers
- {4} **His resurrection**—guaranteeing our own resurrection
- {5} **His Ascension and Session** to the right hand of God the Father where He (a member of human race) now sits in glory

- {6} **Day of Pentecost** (Acts 2) beginning of the Church Age, where everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior receives 34 things from God including the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

- {7} **The Church Age** We now live in the Church Age where everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as Savior is forming the Body of Christ and the Bride of Christ and it is while here on earth during the Church Age that we can win rewards for after death

- {8} **The Rapture**—removal of everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST at the regathering before JESUS CHRIST. This is where everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior is resurrected and receives a Resurrected Body, minus the Inherited Sin Nature ▪ Philippians 3:20-21

- {9} **Judgment Seat of Christ** where every believer will stand before JESUS CHRIST who will judge our time while here on earth. We can give thanks that we will not stand before Him at the Great White Throne Judgment but we will stand before JESUS CHRIST after the Rapture. You do not want to be shamed at this judgment!

Rapture:
from ***'Fast Facts on Bible Prophecy'***
by Thomas Ice and Timothy Demy.

Rapture

Some critics have noted that the word *rapture* is never used in the Bible. While this is true of most English versions, Latin translators of the Greek New Testament *did* use the word *rapere*, which is the root of the English term *rapture*. Many contemporary theological terms have been derived from a Latin base. Throughout much of the history of the Western church, Latin was the accepted language of theological discussion. As a result, many theological terms developed out of this language (for instance, trinity, millennium, imminence). *Rapture* is also such a word. There are many terms used in the New Testament to refer to the rapture event. To claim that the rapture should be dismissed on the grounds of language is naively incorrect.

The teaching of the rapture is most clearly presented in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. In this passage Paul informs his readers that living Christians at the time of the rapture will be reunited with those who have died in Christ before them. In verse 17 the English phrase “caught up” translates from the Greek word *harpazó*, which means “to seize upon with force” or “to snatch up.” This word is used 14 times in the Greek New Testament in a variety of ways.

Sometimes the New Testament uses *harpazó* with the sense of “stealing,” “carrying off,” or “dragging away” (Matthew 12:29; John 10:12). It also can have the meaning of “to lead away forcibly” (John 6:15; 10:28,29; Acts 23:10; Jude 23). However, for our purposes, a third usage is significant. This usage is that of God’s Spirit carrying someone away. We see this usage illustrated in Acts 8:39 where Philip, upon completion of the baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch, is raptured or “caught up” and divinely transported from the desert to the

Coastal town of Azorus (see also 2 Corinthians 12:2,4; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Revelation 12:5). Similarly, the church will, in a moment of time, be taken from earth to heaven. It is not surprising that contemporary author Hal Lindsey has called this unique event “The Great Snatch.”

There are a multitude of theories as to when the rapture will take place in relation to the tribulation among premillennialists.

We believe “the Great Snatch” will occur before the 7 year tribulation.

Ok, so you are looking for the Rapture—even anticipating it!
But... are you ready for the next event right after the Rapture?
No, I am not talking about happens on earth after the rapture
but are you ready for what happens in heaven?

This is the next event for you!
The Judgment Seat of Christ.