HOW DOES GOD REWARD THOSE WHO SEEK HIM?
(Hebrews 11:6)

I. Does God's love mean that everybody will be saved?
   A. The doctrine of universalism teaches that everybody will be saved eventually.
   B. But if the Bible account of God is accurate, two different destinies are before us (Romans 2:4-8).
   C. God could not be good and not punish evil (Genesis 18:25).
      1. Job 19:25;
      2. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8.
   D. Jesus is the Savior of all those who obey Him (Hebrews 5:9).

II. What is God's desire for us?
   A. Notice God’s benevolent character.
      1. At the cross, God proved His benevolence, which means “good will,” toward us (Romans 5:8; 8:32).
      2. God asks us to believe at least two things:
         a. That He is - God’s existence.
         b. That He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him - that is, His goodness.
      3. The confidence of the gospel is that in the end, good will triumph over evil.
         a. This is what allows us to go on each day.
         b. The ultimate triumph of God over evil.
         c. When we think about that it should cause us to reflect on God’s desire for us personally to be a part of His triumph.
      4. We must never get big-headed and think we are some major cog in this battle, we are just foot soldiers.
         a. We should also remember that at one point we rebelled against God and sided with Satan.
         b. Despite that and our status, God still wants us to share in that victory when the time comes.
      5. 2 Timothy 2:11-12.
   B. God’s desire for us is that all respond to His goodness and accept the reconciliation He offers on His terms.
      1. Our destiny rests on our decision, but God is not neutral with respect to our choice, greatly desiring us to share in His glory (2 Peter 3:9).
      2. In other words, God greatly desires to bless us.
      3. When we take an honest, seeking step toward Him, He honors that as He did with Cornelius (Acts 10:1-4).
C. Angelus Silesius, a German theologian and poet, once wrote, “Whoso draws nigh to God one step through doubtings dim, God will advance a mile in blazing light to Him.” (Luke 15:20).
D. God’s special love is shown to those who do seek Him diligently (Numbers 6:24-26; Psalm 149:4).

III. **What is the reward God gives?**
A. Faithfulness to God certainly brings the enjoyment of many secondary things that are of great benefit to us.
B. But more important than all of these is the real rewards that awaits us: a deep fellowship with God the Father.
   1. We were created in such a way that fellowship with God is our deepest need (Genesis 1:27; Ecclesiastes 3:11).
   2. God ought to be our greatest desire.
C. Jesus stated that eternal life is to know God (John 17:3).
D. To have fellowship with God for all eternity is the reward of diligently seeking God (Revelation 22:1-5).

IV. **The right response to God’s goodness.**
A. We need to be careful to have true conceptions of God's character - but we need to respond to that character in the right way.
B. It is a combination of reverence plus gratitude that is the right response to God's goodness.
   1. Romans 1:21.
   2. Remember our definition of seeking God: growth in obedience with a desire to love and honor God more each day.
C. This puts the emphasis on the glory of the Giver, not our enjoyment of the gift.
D. Even in our consideration of the reward that can come to us, we still need to keep the emphasis on God, not on us.

From a sermon by Gary Henry