

Hebrews 11:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

Analysis

Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. Moses' value system calculated that 'the reproach of Christ' (ton oneidismon tou Christou, τὸν ὄνειδισμὸν τοῦ Χριστοῦ) outweighed Egypt's treasures. Though Christ hadn't yet come incarnate, Moses suffered reproach associated with the Messiah—rejection for identifying with God's covenant people and purposes. All who align with God's redemptive plan share in Christ's rejection by the world. The Messiah's suffering was predetermined; those who walk His path share His reproach.

The word 'esteeming' (hēgēsamenos, ἡγησάμενος, 'considering' or 'reckoning') indicates deliberate calculation. Moses didn't sentimentally or impulsively choose suffering—he rationally concluded that reproach associated with God's purposes constituted 'greater riches' than Egypt's treasures. This required faith's eternal perspective: visible treasures paled before invisible, eternal realities. The same calculation applies to believers: Christ and His reproach represent greater wealth than anything the world offers.

Moses 'had respect unto the recompence of the reward' (apeblepen eis tēn misthapodosian, ἀπέβλεπεν εἰς τὴν μισθαποδοσίαν, 'looked away to the reward'). His eyes fixed not on present circumstances but future recompense. This forward vision, characteristic of all biblical faith, enabled present sacrifice for future glory. Reformed theology emphasizes this isn't salvation by works—the reward is

gracious, promised to those saved by faith. But faith's assurance of future inheritance produces present endurance.

Historical Context

Egypt's treasures in Moses' era were legendary. Archaeological discoveries include spectacular golden burial goods from pharaohs, elaborate temples with precious metals and stones, vast granaries, sophisticated trade networks bringing luxury goods from across the ancient world. As royalty, Moses had access to this wealth. The Exodus account later describes Israel's plundering of Egyptian wealth (Exodus 12:35-36), giving glimpse of the treasures Moses forsook. His choice demonstrates faith values God's invisible realities above visible wealth, Christ's reproach above worldly riches. This would powerfully encourage first-century Christians facing economic hardship for following Christ.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does your life demonstrate that you esteem Christ's reproach greater riches than worldly success and comfort?
2. What 'treasures' must you revalue in light of eternal recompense, choosing reproach with Christ over temporary wealth?
3. In what practical ways do you 'have respect unto the recompense of the reward,' keeping eternal perspective in daily decisions?

Interlinear Text

μείζονα πλοῦτον ἡγησάμενος τῶν ἐν Αἴγυπτῳ θησαυρῶν
G3173 riches Esteeming G3588 in Egypt the treasures
G4149 G2233 G1722 G125 G2344

τὸν ὄνειδισμὸν τοῦ Χριστοῦ· ἀπέβλεπεν γὰρ εἰς τὴν
G3588 the reproach G3588 of Christ he had respect for unto G3588
G3680 G5547 G578 G1063 G1519

μισθαποδοσίαν

the recompence of the reward

G3405

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 11:6 (Parallel theme): But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 10:35 (Parallel theme): Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

Matthew 5:12 (Parallel theme): Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Revelation 3:18 (Parallel theme): I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Hebrews 2:2 (Parallel theme): For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;

2 Corinthians 6:10 (Parallel theme): As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

2 Corinthians 12:10 (References Christ): Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Luke 14:14 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

1 Peter 4:14 (References Christ): If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

Isaiah 51:7 (Parallel theme): Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

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