

Date: October 8, 2017

Sermon Title: The Promise of Reward

Speaker: Richard Smith

Scripture text(s): Matthew 5:10-12; 2 Corinthians 1:8-9, 4:6-17

- 1) Richard said, "To the degree that we see our reward is great is the degree that we're willing to suffer for Him." To what degree do you believe your reward is great? How does this belief affect your life?
 - 2) How does your speech line up with your belief? If it doesn't, what will you do differently?
 - 3) With whom do you need to be Paul? In other words, with whom do you need to be bold with in your speech?
 - 4) Paul's hope was in Christ and he trusted himself to Him because he knew that Christ could give dead people life. Because of this, he was bold to speak the name of Jesus. To what depth do you trust Christ?
 - 5) In Acts 4:9-20, Peter was warned and told not to speak the name of Jesus. Richard made the point that it's all about the speaking. What prevents you from speaking to someone boldly? What steps can you take in order speak about Christ even though it may bring persecution?
 - 6) Why have Christians in America stopped preaching the name of Jesus at just the threat of intimidation?
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Group Prayer Time:

Have 1 – 2 people in your group pray through each part of the A.C.T.S. prayer acronym.

1. **Adoration** – How is God's character reflected in this week's passage? Let that revelation lead you to worship and adore God.
2. **Confess** – The Word of God exposes and uncovers sin. Respond to that conviction by agreeing with what God has said about your sin.
3. **Thanksgiving** – Where do you see God working? Thank God for his faithfulness in your life and the lives of others.
4. **Supplication** – God's Word helps us understand his purposes and plans. Ask God to give you the desires of his heart as you pray for your needs and the needs of others.

Pray for Missions:

This week in your group prayer time, have someone pray for this missions' effort. Different missions will be highlighted every week.

- **Local Missions** – English Crossing is a faith-based ministry, that has been building relationships with Upstate internationals since 2013 through free English classes. Their mission is to build trusting, long term relationships with local internationals through the platform of teaching English in order to reach and disciple them with the gospel of Jesus Christ. They offer free weekly adult beginner, intermediate, and advanced English classes as well as free childcare and homework help for their children at multiple locations in Spartanburg. Classes are offered weekly during the school year and bible study is available during the summer months for those that want to learn more about Jesus Christ.

Volunteer Opportunity available at both locations:

1. CDC- SPARTANBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT 6 CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
(WEDNESDAY NIGHTS)
2. HENDRIX ELEMENTARY **(TUESDAY NIGHTS)**

For Volunteer information please click <http://englishcrossing.org/volunteer-resources/>.