

# One-Time Rewards

Years ago, a popular commercial on television said, “You can pay me now, or you can pay me later.”

The idea was that it makes more sense to pay for an oil change now than to pay to have the whole engine rebuilt later. You don’t have to pay twice – for oil changes and a rebuilt engine. You just pay once and you pick the time and the amount.



There is an aspect of that theme that is consistent with the teachings of Jesus on rewards for faithfulness in the spiritual life. In essence, He said, “You will be rewarded for the spiritual acts you undertake, but you’ll only be rewarded once. You can either do your acts for men and get your rewards from them, or do your acts for God and get your rewards from Him.”

In other words, “Get your rewards now or get your rewards later – your choice.”

Writing on that subject in his book *Turning Points*, Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California, observed: “Why would anyone choose to forego the eternal riches of God’s rewards for the temporal rewards of man? Praise, notoriety, glory and prominence – these are powerful and tempting inducements to work for man and be rewarded immediately. But a greater motivation for working only for God is the idea of being rewarded by Him alone with rewards that will never fade away.”

Associates in Life Care and Century Park have come to understand this truth. Because of belief in Christ and the commandment of God to love and serve others, they have discovered that by caring for His frail and infirm children, they are laying up treasures in heaven.

And such a career is soul-satisfying.

*And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men* (Colossians 3:23 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter