

# Reward Yourself

William Arthur Ward (1921 – 1994) is one of America's most-quoted writers of inspirational maxims. A native of Louisiana, he entered the United States Army as a private in 1942 and rose to the rank of captain. He was assistant to the president of Texas Wesleyan College in Fort Worth beginning in 1955, and a member of the International Platform Association as a speaker much in demand.

His insights and ability to put a philosophy of life into a few words were truly remarkable. Here is a sample from his book *Reward Yourself*:

*A man phoned his physician and excitedly exclaimed: "Please come at once, Doctor. My son has swallowed my fountain pen."*

*The doctor replied, "I'll be right over. But what are you doing in the meanwhile?"*

*"Using a pencil," answered the father.*

*What we do "in the meanwhile" is of vital importance to our lives – and to the lives of others. What we do with our leisure time can build our character or destroy it. It can make our fortune or mar it.*

*While we wait for a traffic light to change, we can pray for our president, our nation, and the world.*

*While we wait for an elevator, we can be still and know that God is, and that He is still in charge of the universe.*

*While we drive or ride to work, we can affirmatively and joyously meditate on that which is true, pure, lovely, and positive.*

*While we wash dishes, mow the lawn, or perform other tasks that require less than our complete attention, we can sing, whistle, or hum the tunes of great songs and hymns that inevitably make life more beautiful for us and for our fellow human beings.*



*While we sit in the waiting room of our physician or dentist, we can thank God for dedicated professional people, and we can pray for those patients who might be anxious, fearful, despondent, or in pain.*

*What we do with our golden "in the meanwhile" moments can enrich and inspire, encourage and uplift, bless and brighten our important corner of the world.*

These are more than words on a piece of paper. They present a philosophy of life. Adopt it for your own, and you truly will reward yourself.

– Beecher Hunter