

Pastor Phil & Rhonda Willingham



Heartland Christian Center

170 S. State Road 49 • Valparaiso, IN. 46383 • 219-462-4500
Heartlandag@juno.com • heartlandchristiancenter.com



March, 2009

Greetings Friend,

Through out the many years of ministry I have often had people say to me, "Pastor God will make sure you get rewarded for your work of faith." And it is true, through out the years I've discovered that God has all kinds of ways to pay you for staying in faith and doing what He has called you to do. Hebrews 10:35 says, "*So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.*" God wants us to receive a blessing for the services we have rendered in His Kingdom!

The phrase "**richly rewarded**" speaks of money, or a person's salary, or a payment that is due. It was primarily used in an industrial or commercial context to denote a payment, salary, or reward that was given for a job performed. However, in this context it doesn't just refer to a payment, but to a reimbursement, settlement, or reparation, so this communicates several vital ideas to us.

First, it communicates the idea of being paid for present labor. When any person does a good job, he expects to pick up a paycheck for the work he accomplished. It is appropriate for him to expect payment. That paycheck reflects the effort he put into his job. Because he was faithful to do what he was hired to do, he has earned that money. Therefore, it is normal for him to expect to be paid. Here this word is used to tell us that God rewards or pays those who are faithful to assignments He has given them.

Now this refutes the common misconception some people have that if they serve God, they will suffer loss or lack for the rest of their lives. Many people think they'd do better in life by not serving God. But why would we think God is going to do less than a human employer would do? Don't we expect a human employer to reward employees properly? Again, this verse emphatically asserts that God is going to take good care of those who do His will. This means that faith really does pay! Yet in this verse the phrase used is expanded even further.

It also means reimbursement for expenses you spent to do the job; a settlement to take care of injuries or losses; or reparations to cover all that vanished due to war. This means that God is mindful of the time, love, patience, and money you have invested as you have worked for Him.

When you've worked long hours on His behalf; invested your personal energies into the work of His Kingdom; when you've given 100 percent of your heart and soul to your assigned task; or when you've given sacrificially of your finances, God has never forgotten any of these things. That is why Hebrews 6:10 says, "*God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.*" Again this suggests that God will be sure to remember it all and He will see to it that you are fully reimbursed for everything you spent to accomplish the assignment He gave to you. He will make a settlement with you for past expenses that would make anyone want to rejoice! God will make sure you get compensation for any damage you've experienced because of the battles you've fought for Him.

Throughout this past year many have been faithful stewards of their time, talents, temple, testimony, and treasure. Often you will hear me say how grateful and thankful we are for your faithfulness but these verses make it clear that God is fair and equitable in His dealings.

When you have given your best and worked with all your heart and might to fulfill an assignment He gave you, when you may have invested your whole heart into that assignment or lost something along the way that was precious to you, God will make certain that you are paid and reimbursed. God never disregards what you have done for Him. What a promise!

As we move into 2009 we need to be reminded that according to Philippians 4:19, God has no shortage of riches in Heaven and those riches are reserved to meet your current needs. There is no need for you and me to be beggarly in how much we expect to be blessed.

I want you to know that those riches are reserved for us, so raise your level of expectation! Throw open your arms! It's time for us to receive the harvest we've earned through a lot of hard work and effort! Why not open your heart right now and expect God to pay you for services rendered in your walk of faith!

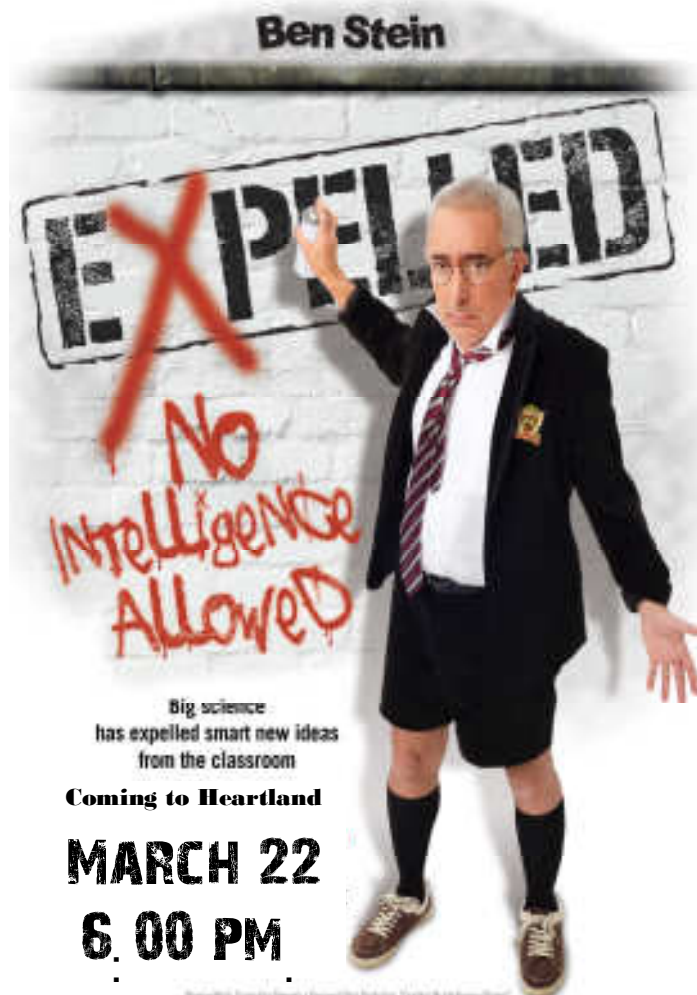
Blessed,

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TWO GREAT PRESENTATIONS ON INTELLIGENT DESIGN

Ben Stein



EXPULSED

No Intelligence Allowed

Big science has expelled smart new ideas from the classroom

Coming to Heartland

MARCH 22

6.00 PM

Creation vs. Evolution

with Creation Science expert Malachi King 

Saturday & Sunday

March 28 & 29

Heartland Christian Center

170 S State Rd 49, Valparaiso

Mar 28 6pm The Origin of Life

Mar 29 10am Made in the Image of God

Mar 29 6pm FAQ Creation vs. Evolution