

Literally the text says that "entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly (or abundantly) provided for you."

What is this "eternal kingdom"? It refers to something yet future, to a time and place purchased for us by the Lord Jesus Christ, in which God will rule supremely, and to which those who live for Christ now and seek to grow toward spiritual maturity will be richly and joyfully given entrance and welcomed!

In Matthew 25:34 we read: "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.' "

In Mark 8:38 Jesus says: "If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." The implication appears strong that those who become Christ's followers and confess Him before men will be confessed and known and welcomed when He comes in glory.

Think of the welcome given the prodigal son! As he came to himself, turned from sin and self-gratification, turned toward obedience, and drew near to his home, his father ran to meet him, hugged and kissed him, put the best robe on him, put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet, and prepared a banquet for him! Now that's what I would call a "rich welcome"!

Of course he didn't deserve it! But by the grace and compassion of his father he got it anyway!

Even if we show great zeal in exerting ourselves toward spiritual maturity, the best of our efforts will be imperfect, characterized by mixed motives, and partly sinful. And yet God by His grace and mercy will accept our imperfect efforts and will reward us, give us a rich welcome into eternal glory, outfit us with glorious garments, place crowns on our heads, and feed us with the food of heaven!

Peter assures us that as we have exerted ourselves toward spiritual growth and maturity, such an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for us!

What a glorious prospect! What a wonderful assurance! Christ Himself will welcome us in with the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant," and we will enter into the joy of our Lord! And in the fullest and best sense of the word "home," we will at last be home!