

would not agree that Godlessness pays off.

I. Joshua & Caleb, in Scrip., both rewarded for stout stand on faith in God (Numbers 13 & 14).

1. Took one of them longer than other to achieve reward, but not bitter about it.

2. Took both many years to get rewards, about 40 years for Joshua and 45 for Caleb, but still had faith in it.

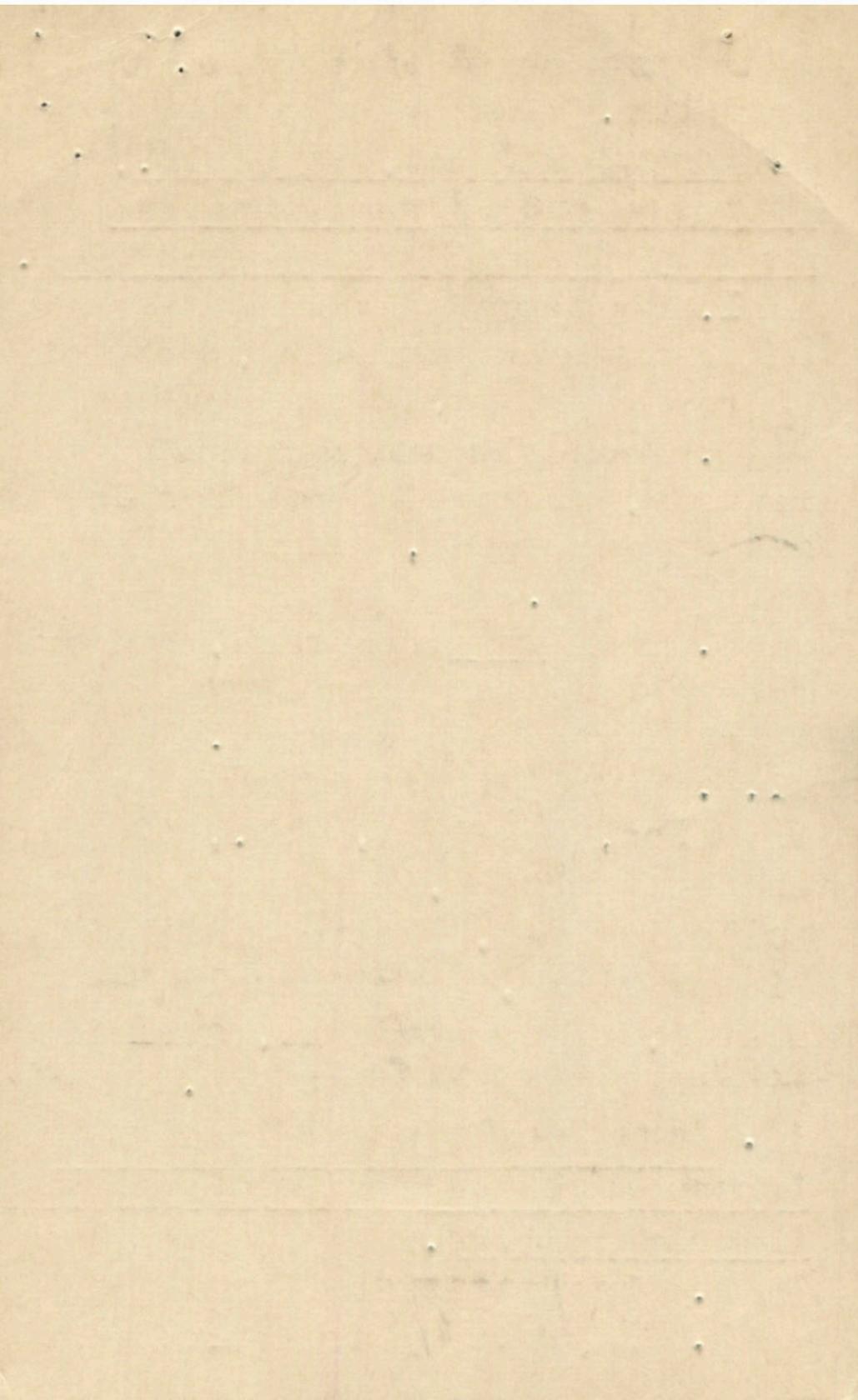
3. They were rewarded, and are remembered today for courage which earned the rewards.

II. 4. We might not approve of invasion, massacre, etc., of ancient Hebrews, but faithfully following God, putting faith in His promises, as sincerely believed, is commendable, even if sincerity may be mistaken.

II. Jesus dealt specifically in terms of reward for goodly virtues in private life.

1. The Beatitudes.

2. "Lay not up treasures on



earth" passage (Mt. 6: 19-21).

3. Many others.

III. Rewards for following God today are the richest and most lasting of all treasures available to humans.

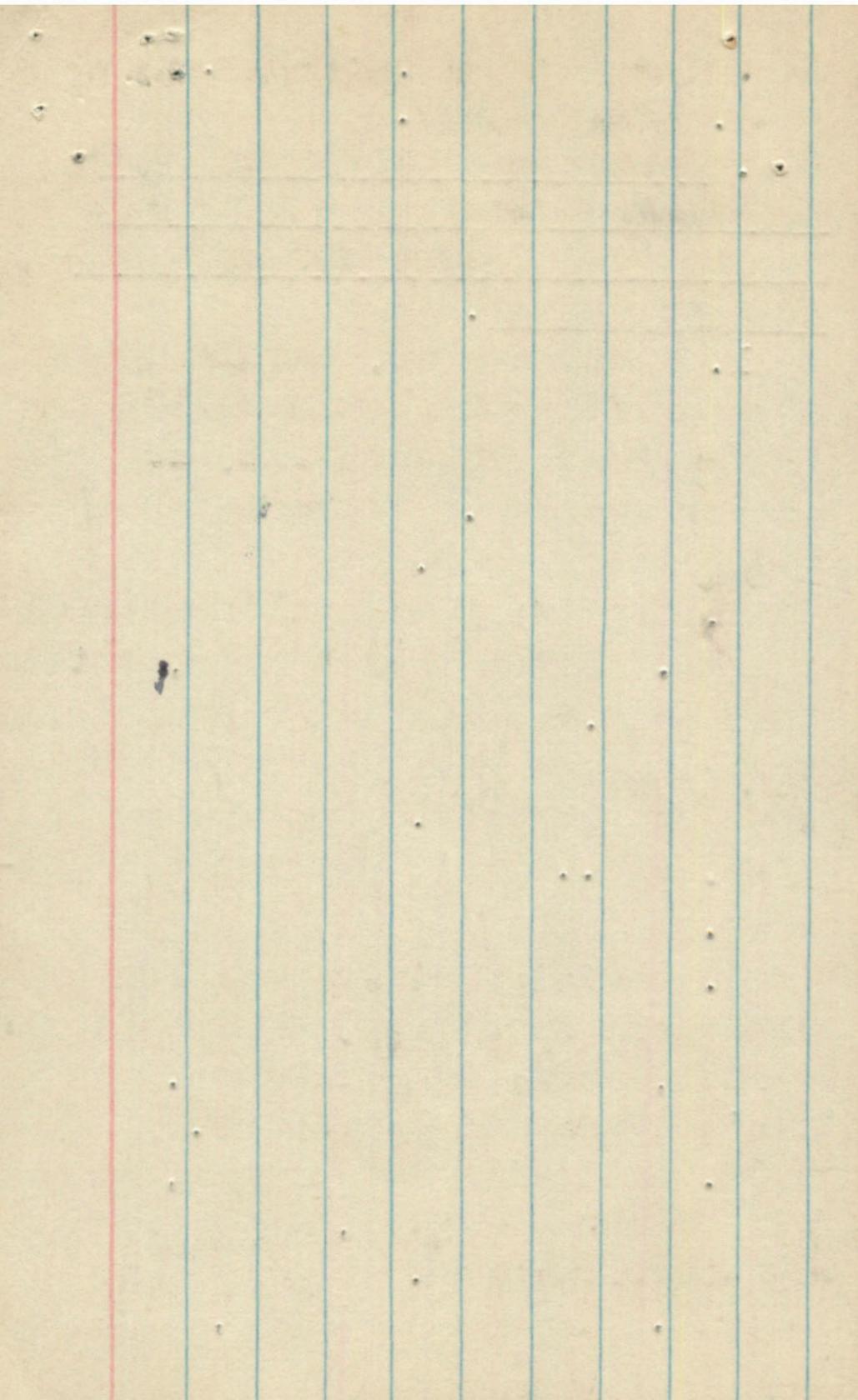
1. Want new car, but in spite of sacrifice to obtain would in few years be worn out, or sooner wrecked. Depreciates in value every year.

2. Similarly with all material things. Often they hamper, rather than help. Financial responsibility binds, even past usefulness or loss of property. Cumbersome to move, etc.. Don't guarantee happiness.

3. Social & civic position dependent on others, or on material wealth, and soon forgotten. Don't guarantee happiness.

4. Following God brings, as with Joshua & Caleb, both present & future rewards.

a. Clear conscience, with



4
minimum of inner conflicts or sleepless nights.

b. Lessening of anxiety for future because of faith that best effort, with God's blessing, will prevail.

c. Esteem, gratitude, love, confidence of fellow men, with less jealousy, envy over material things, etc., from others.

d. A sense of usefulness & purpose all through life; the purpose of following God's commands and laws to the best as sincerely understood.

e. A conviction that God will give justice in matter of life after death.

5. These above are rewards which are priceless (word describes things of greatest value) and lasting (as material things aren't).

Conclusion: Following God gives the greatest rewards available to me.

