

Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005

## Crowns

1). 'The Crown of Life'

a). *Jas 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

b). *Re 2:10 "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

c). This is a crown given for enduring the trials and testings of life even to the point of dying if necessary – the person who patiently endures the present trials and testings will be awarded this crown after they have been 'approved'.

d). *Ac 14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."*

e). *1Pe 1:3 ¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 ¶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.*

f). Don't despise the chastening of the Lord - *Heb 12:5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;*

*Ro 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

g). The final 'approval' comes through fire at the Judgment Seat

2). 'The Crown of Glory'

a). *1Pe 5:2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*

b). *Ac 20:28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

c). This is the crown that will be given to those individuals faithfully exercising their calling as undershepherds of the flock

d). Remembering that this is in line with God's requirement not man's

e). *Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ—*

f). God requires His flock to be tended, to be led and to be nourished  
*Mt 24:45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? 46 "Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.*

g). Evident is the progression from milk to meat to strong meat and the attendant maturity in the spirit that accompanies it.

3). 'The Crown of Rejoicing [ Boasting ]'

a). *1Th 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? 20 For you are our glory and joy.*

b). This is a crown that is peculiarly related to soulwinning in its true sense – that is winning the saved to a life of faithfulness in view of the coming Kingdom rewards.

c). *Php 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. 4:1 ¶ Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.*

d). The Crown of Rejoicing and the Crown of Glory are closely related as the main idea behind both is soulwinning

e). This is the primary duty of the pastor-teacher and he can win the crown of glory for faithfulness in this

f). But the crown of rejoicing is not just for pastor teachers, but for any Christian who ministers in this realm

g). *Jas 5:19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*

h). *Pr 11:30 ¶ The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.*

#### 4). 'The Crown of Righteousness'

a). *2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

b). This is a crown that will be given to those who will have loved His appearing and thereby all that will have meant

i/ Notice how this is put together –

(1) I have fought the good fight – in accordance with Ephesians 6

(2) I have finished the race – not deviated from the course

(3) I have kept the faith – not wavered under pressure

– this scripture from 2 Timothy has to do with being victorious in our Christian walk - *1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

*Jude 1:3 ¶ Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*

We need to be looking ahead to the promised glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ – ‘looking unto Jesus..’

c). It would be a mistake to think that all Christians will love His appearing. Many are in love with the idea of His appearing through having completely wrong ideas about what will take place at this time.

d). Those who love His appearing will be those who have been victorious in overcoming the world, the flesh and the Devil

I have fought the good fight – in accordance with Ephesians 6

I have finished the race – not deviated from the course

I have kept the faith – not wavered under pressure

and it is for these that the crown of righteousness is reserved.

5). ‘The Imperishable [ Incorruptible ] Crown’

a). *1Co 9:24 ¶ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

b). This is a crown that will be given to those who run the present race of the faith in the correct fashion – there is a right way to do this.

(1) Temperate in all things

(2) Run...not with uncertainty

(3) Fight...not as one who beats the air

(4) Discipline my body and bring it into subjection

c). Our scripture describes this race as one where we strive for mastery over our fleshly desires and appetites.

d). The word translated ‘competes’ in our text is the Greek word *agonizomai* from which we get our English word agonize.

e). The thought this gives us is that every muscle of our being is to be strained if necessary, to obtain mastery over all fleshly desires and appetites

f). Any Christian who runs the present race in this way has been promised this crown.

6). These five crowns are available for Christians to win and will be won or lost as a result of our actions during our Christian walk. What we do now will determine what we get then. It is as a result of the determinations made at the Judgment Seat of Christ that these crowns will be awarded.

- a). Crowns are worn by kings for the purpose of ruling
- b). The wearing of these crowns will not just depict the overcoming and reigning status of those who wear them but will also reveal certain things about the nature of their victory.
- c). Re 3:11 *"Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.*