

Crowns of A Christian

- Imperishable Crown
- Crown of REJOICING
- Crown of RIGHTEOUSNESS
- Crown of LIFE
- Crown of GLORY

The lesson this morning is entitled, “**Crowns of A Christian**”

It can be en-couraging, up-building, and even a thrill, to think of our **REWARD**.

- Jesus said, “behold, I **COME** quickly; and My **REWARD** is with Me, to **GIVE**, every man, according as his **WORK** shall **Be**.” ([Rev.22:12](#))

In scripture, some rewards for christians, are referred to as a “crown”.

In the lesson this morning, we’ll notice that there is a,

- Crown of REJOICING,
- Crown of RIGHTEOUSNESS
- Crown of LIFE
- Crown of GLORY

...and for some, there will be an,

I. Imperishable Crown

For the Salvation of some, Paul would allow his,

A. Rights Forfeited For Others

He said,

- “For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself **SERVANT** unto all, that I might **GAIN** the more.
²⁰ And unto the Jews, I became **AS a Jew**, that I might **GAIN** the Jews;
to them that are under the law, (became) **AS under the law**, that I might **GAIN** them, that are under the law;
²¹ to them that are without law, **AS without law** (or lawless, such AS a Gentile)
(being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might **GAIN** them that are without law.
²² To the weak became I, **AS weak**, that I might **GAIN** the weak:
I am made all things to all men, that I might, by all means, **SAVE** some.
²³ And this I **DO** for the gospel’s sake, that I might **Be PARTAKER** thereof with you.” ([1Cor.9:19-23](#))

Like a runner, we need to absolutely have our,

B. Eyes Fixed On The Goal

- “Know ye not that, they which run in a race, run all (that is, run with their all, is the idea), but one receiveth the **PRIZE**? So **RUN**, that ye may **OBTAIN**.
²⁵ And every man that **STRIVETH** for the mastery, is **TEMPERATE** in all things.
Now they do it, to obtain a corruptible **CROWN**; but we an **INCORRUPTIBLE** (crown).” ([1Cor.9:24-25](#))

Christians, need to have the determination of a runner.

According to Paul’s analogy, we should also have the,

C. Aim of a Boxer

- He said, “I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so **FIGHT** I, not as one that **BEATETH the AIR** (he’s referencing a boxer, that misses his target):
²⁷ but I **KEEP under** my body, and **BRING it into SUBJECTION**:
lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” ([1Cor.9:26-27a](#))

God is not making us “successful”, or “great”.

He wants to reproduce in us,

D. The Character of Christ

- His love, His kindness, His compassion, His holiness, His humility, His unselfishness,
- ...His servant’s spirit, His willingness to suffer wrongfully, and His willingness to forgive.

God desires that we challenge one another, in our...

E. Race Toward the Im-perishable Crown

- “Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” (reads [Prov.27:17](#))
- “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one, in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.” ([Gal 6:1](#))
- “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for **He is FAITHFUL** that Promised;) ²⁴ and let us consider one another to provoke unto love, and to good works: ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” ([Heb.10:23-25](#))
- “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man, availeth much (or accomplishes much).” ([Jas.5:16](#))

The Bible says, there will be a,

II. Crown of REJOICING

- “Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved, and longed for, my joy and **CROWN**, so **STAND fast IN the Lord**, my dearly beloved.” ([Phil.4:1](#))

Those at Philippi, were Paul’s “Joy and Crown”,

because they had increased spiritually, which was planted through Paul’s preaching.

In Acts 8, we have Six,

A. Guidelines for Teaching the Truth to Others

1. Such as, **Obedience**.

- The Bible says that, “Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and **PREACHED Christ** unto them. ⁶ And the people with one accord **GAVE HEED** unto those things which **Philip SPAKE, HEARING and SEEING** the miracles, which he **DID**.
 - ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, **CAME OUT** of many, that were possessed with them:
 - and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were **HEALED**.
 - ⁸ And there was Great JOY in that city.” ([Acts 8:5-8](#))
- “**WHEN** they **BELIEVED** Philip, **PREACHING** the things concerning the **KINGDOM of God**, and the **NAME of Jesus Christ**, they **were BAPTIZED**, both men and women.” ([Acts 8:12](#))
- “And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, **ARISE**, and **GO** toward the south, unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. ²⁷ And he **AROSE** and **WENT**.” ([Acts 8:26-27a](#))
- Likewise, “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place, which he should after receive for an inheritance, **OBEYED**; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.” ([Heb 11:8](#))

Guidelines for Teaching the Truth to Others,

2. Availability.

- “behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority, under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had **COME** to Jerusalem for to **WORSHIP**,²⁸ was returning, and **SITTING** in his chariot, **READ** Esaias the prophet.²⁹ Then the Spirit said unto Philip, **GO** near, and **JOIN** thyself to this chariot.” ([Acts 8:27b-29](#))

Another guideline for Teaching the Truth to Others, is having ...

3. A Proper Approach.

- [Acts 8:30](#) reads, “And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, **Understandest thou what thou readest?**”

A Guideline for Teaching the Truth to Others?

4. Courtesy,

...through the, respectfully waited for, invitation.

- “And he said, How can I (understand), except some man should guide me? And he **DESIRED** Philip, that he would come up and sit with him.” ([Acts 8:31](#))

By listening to him, Philip knew where to begin his presentation.

Guidelines for Teaching the Truth to Others?

5. Begin Where the Person Is.

- “The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: ³³ in his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for His life is taken from the earth.³⁴ And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, **of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?**” ([Acts 8:32-34](#))

If we want to Teach the Truth to Others, we’ll need to,

6. Focus on Christ (Not controversy, or rabbit trails).

- “Then Philip opened his mouth, and **BEGAN** at the same scripture, and **PREACHED** unto him **Jesus**.³⁶ And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; **WHAT** doth hinder me to Be BAPTIZED?³⁷ And Philip said, **IF** thou **BELIEVEST** with **ALL** thine **HEART**, thou mayest. And he answered and said, **I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God**.³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he **BAPTIZED** him. ³⁹ And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way **REJOICING**.” ([Acts 8:35-39](#))

To teach, One doesn’t have to stand on a corner and yell; Just be natural, caring, tactful, honest; And

B. Watch for Opportunities

The teaching opportunities with those at Thessalonica, had produced a **Crown of REJOICING**, indeed.

- Paul said, “For what is our hope, or joy, or **CROWN** of rejoicing (or Exultation)? Are not even ye, in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, at His coming?²⁰ For **YE ARE**, our **GLORY** and **JOY**.” ([1Thess.2:19-20](#))

We are considering a lesson entitled “*Crowns of A Christian*”

For the Faithful, There Will Be A,

III. Crown of RIGHTEOUSNESS

...which is the reward for living a righteous life, and eagerly awaiting the return of Christ.

- “For I am now **READY** to be offered, and the **TIME** of my departure is **AT HAND**. I have **FOUGHT** a good fight, I have **FINISHED** my course, I have **KEPT** the faith:
⁸ henceforth there is laid up for me a **CROWN of Righteousness**, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall **GIVE** me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that **LOVE** His appearing.” ([2Tim.4:6-8](#))

For Paul, death’s shadow lengthened over him.

Because physical death is near, for anyone of us, we should...

A. Be Aware

...of evil forces, that influence some to depart from the faith, And thereby missing the crown of righteousness, by...

- “giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;
² speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;” ([1Tim.4:1b-2](#))
- “If thou put the brethren in **REMEMBRANCE** of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, **NOURISHED UP**, in the Words of Faith, and of Good Doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.
⁷ But refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and **EXERCISE** thyself rather unto **GODLINESS**.” ([1Tim.4:6-7](#))

We should,

B. Long For The Crown That Awaits

- “For bodily exercise profiteth little: but **GODLINESS** is profitable unto **ALL** things, having **PROMISE of the LIFE** that now is, and of that which is to **COME**.” ([1Tim.4:8](#))
- “Wherefore seeing we also, are **COMPASSED ABOUT** with so great a cloud of WITNESSES, let us **LAY ASIDE** every weight, and the sin which **DOETH** so easily beset us, and let us **RUN** with patience, the race that is set before us,
² **LOOKING** unto Jesus, the **AUTHOR** and **FINISHER** of our **FAITH**;” ([Heb.12:1-2a](#))
- “**LOOKING** for that blessed HOPE, and the glorious APPEARING, **OF** the great God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” ([Titus 2:13](#))

For the Faithful, There Will Be A,

IV. Crown of LIFE

...For those who endure until the end (Matt.24:13).

The Crown of Life, is the reward for those enduring trials and suffering, while still remaining faithful unto God.

The Bible says,

- “Fear none of those things which thou **SHALT SUFFER**: behold, the devil shall **CAST** some of you into PRISON, that ye may **Be TRIED**; and ye shall **Have TRIBULATION** ten days: **Be thou FAITHFUL unto DEATH**, and I will **GIVE** thee a **CROWN of Life.**” ([Rev.2:10](#))

For certain, Christians will,

A. Encounter Various Trials, to Joy!

- “My brethren, count it ALL JOY, **WHEN** ye fall into divers **TEMPTATIONS**; ³ knowing this, that the **TRYING** of your **FAITH** worketh PATIENCE.” ([Jas.1:2-3](#))

Christians must,

B. Endure through Trials, unto Maturity!

- James said, “Let patience (or steadfastness) have its perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing.” ([Jas.1:4](#) ASV)

Christian CAN,

C. Persevere Under Trials, unto A Crown Of Life!

- “**BLESSED** is the man that **ENDURETH** temptation: for **WHEN** he is tried, he shall **RECEIVE** the **CROWN of Life**, which the Lord hath **PROMISED** to them, that **LOVE Him.**” ([Jas.1:12](#))
- “Call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were enlightened, ye **ENDURED** a great conflict of **SUFFERINGS**;

³³ partly, being made a gazingstock, both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, becoming partakers with them, that were so used.

³⁴ For ye both, had compassion on them, that were in bonds, and took joyfully, the spoiling of your possessions, knowing that ye have for yourselves, a better possession, and an abiding one.

³⁵ Cast NOT AWAY therefore your boldness, which hath great recompense of REWARD.

³⁶ For ye **Have NEED** of patience, that, **Having DONE** the **Will of God**, ye may receive the **PROMISE.**

³⁷ For yet a very little while, He that cometh shall come, and shall not tarry.

³⁸ But my righteous one, shall **LIVE by FAITH**: And **IF** he shrink back, my soul hath **NO** pleasure in him.

³⁹ But we are not of them, that shrink back unto perdition; but **OF** them, that **Have FAITH unto** the **SAVING of the SOUL.**” ([Heb.10:32-39](#) ASV)

The Bible says, for some, there will be a,

V. Crown of GLORY

The Bible says,

A. "The Elders"

- "...therefore **AMONG YOU**, I exhort, who am a fellow-elder, and a witness of the **SUFFERINGS of Christ**, who am also a partaker of the GLORY, that shall be revealed:
² **TEND** the flock of God, which is **AMONG YOU**, exercising the OVERSIGHT, **NOT** of constraint, **BUT** willingly, according to the will of God; **NOR** yet for filthy lucre, **BUT** of a ready mind;
³ **NEITHER** as lording it over, the charge allotted to you, **BUT** making yourselves ensamples to the flock.
⁴ And **WHEN** the chief Shepherd shall be **MANIFESTED**, ye shall receive the **CROWN of GLORY**, that fadeth NOT away." ([1Pet.5:1-4](#) ASV)

The Crown of Glory spoken of in 1Pet.5:4, seems to be unique to those serving as elders, or spiritual shepherds. It signifies honor and recognition, for those who have been good stewards of the church, in their leadership role.

There is a type of glory, for all saints, as we Pass through death's shadow, into heaven's splendor and

B. See Our Lord, Face-to-face

Christians are to,

- "...**Abide IN Him**; that, **WHEN** He Shall Appear, we may **Have CONFIDENCE**, and **NOT** be ashamed before Him, **At His COMING**.
²⁹ **IF** ye know that **HE IS RIGHTEOUS**, ye **KNOW** that every one that **DOETH Righteousness**, is **Born OF Him**.

^{3:1} Behold, what manner of **LOVE**, the Father **Hath BESTOWED** upon us, that we should be **CALLED** the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us NOT, because it knew Him NOT.

² Beloved, **NOW** are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear, what we shall be: but we **KNOW** that, **WHEN** He shall appear, we **Shall BE LIKE Him**; for we Shall SEE Him, as He is." ([1Jn.2:28-3:2](#))

Those serving , may not always feel appreciated , so we should,

C. Acknowledge them, or Give Recognition

Paul said,

- "Now I beseech you, brethren (ye know the house of Steph-anas, that it is the **first-fruits of Achaia**, and that they have **SET themselves**, to **MINISTER unto** the **SAINTS**),
¹⁶ that ye also **Be** (Set) **in SUBJECTION** (or obey) unto such (or unto their godly, spiritual leadership), and (Be Set in Subjection) **TO every one** that **HELPETH in the work** and **LABORETH**.

Paul goes on to say,

¹⁷ And I **REJOICE at the coming** of **Steph-anas**, and **For-tu-na-tus**, and **Achai-cus**: for that which was **LACKING on your part**, They **SUPPLIED**. ¹⁸ For they **REFRESHED my spirit** and **yours**: **ACKNOWLEDGE** ye therefore them (or honour through recognition), that **ARE** such. ([1Cor.16:15-18](#) ASV)

- "and we beseech you, brethren, to **KNOW** them, which Labour **AMONG YOU**, and are **OVER** you **IN** the Lord, and **ADMONISH** (or warn) you;
¹³ and to **ESTEEM** them very highly **IN LOVE**, for their WORK's sake. And **Be AT PEACE, AMONG yourselves**." (reads [1Thess.5:12-13](#); read also [Heb.13:17](#))

VI. IN-CLOSING

For the faithful,

- “we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved (that is, if we die in the flesh), we have a **BUILDING of God**, an **HOUSE** not made with hands, **ETERNAL** in the heavens.” ([2Cor.5:1](#))

No deed worthy of a reward, will be overlooked, or ignored by The Lord’s Faithful, Loving Eyes.

- “For God is **NOT** unrighteous, to **FORGET** your work and labour of **LOVE**, which ye have **SHEWED** toward **His Name**, in that ye have **MINISTERED** to the saints, and **DO** minister.” ([Heb.6:10](#))

The “many crowns” of God ([Rev.19:12](#)), are celestial, not man-made; Eternal, not fading away. The **HEART** of Moses, was in heavenly home, not earthly palace.

The Bible says,

- “**By FAITH** Moses, when he was come to years, **REFUSED** to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; ²⁵ **CHOOSING** rather, to **SUFFER** affliction with the **PEOPLE of God**, Than, to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; ²⁶ **ESTEEMING** the reproach of Christ, **GREATER RICHES**, Than, the treasures in Egypt: for he had **RESPECT** unto the recompence of the **REWARD**.” ([Heb.11:24-26](#))

Our Loving Redeemer, endured a “crown of thorns”, with much suffering **FOR US** ([Mk.15:16-20](#)).
How can we thank Him enough?

Our only fitting response is to,

- “..**WORSHIP Him**, that Liveth for Ever and Ever, (And like the “the four and twenty elders, who) ...**CAST** their crowns **Before the Throne**, saying, ¹¹ **Thou art WORTHY, O Lord**, to **RECEIVE** Glory and Honour and Power: for **Thou** hast **CREATED** all things, and for **Thy PLEASURE**, they **ARE** and **WERE CREATED**.” ([Rev.4:11](#))

Truly,

- “... **WORTHY is the Lamb**, that was **SLAIN**, to **RECEIVE** Power, and Riches, and Wisdom, and Strength, and Honour, and Glory, and Blessing.” ([Rev.5:12](#))

The Eternal Crown **CAN** be ours.

- “For if, by one man’s offence, death reigned by one; much more, they which **RECEIVED** abundance of **GRACE**, and of the **GIFT of RIGHTEOUSNESS**, shall **REIGN in LIFE** by one, **Jesus Christ**.” ([Rom.5:17](#))
- Who, “hath **MADE** us, Kings and Priests, **UNTO God and His Father**; **To Him, Be GLORY and DOMINION**, for Ever and Ever. Amen.” ([Rev.1:6](#))

The lesson is yours.

If you have a spiritual NEED, The Lord invites, and we await to assist;

- **COME** believing ([Heb.11:6](#)), repenting ([Lk.13:3](#)), confessing ([Acts 8:37](#)),
- and be Baptized **INTO** Christ Jesus ([Gal.3:26-27](#)), Where ALL spiritual blessings exist ([Eph.1:3](#))

...while together we stand and sing.