

1-18-2022

Crowns Available For the Believer

Just a word before we begin-----

My objective in this bible study is to make us familiar with the activity of the Church during this period in history.

There are many great areas of study that could be going on during this time together, but my main objective right now is to discuss the issue of the church of Jesus Christ, their place in all of creation, their responsibility before the Lord, the things necessary for the Church to grow and mature as well as to be able to understand what is ahead of us, as well as what has happened for our benefit.

Once we have established in our minds the responsibility of the church, her equipping her mission and her future we will move about the wonderful word of God to understand such things as what the instruments within the tabernacle of God in the Old Testament meant, ie the Laver and the mercy seat and the curtain and the lampstand the Holy of holies etc.

All are necessary for a well-rounded understanding of God's word. As are the Psalms and Proverbs as well as the Revelation for our full understanding of just what God has done for us, with us and through us.

However, it is my belief that we are in the latter days of the last days and it is really important that we grasp the responsibility of the Church today as well as what is before us for the future.

Thus the overemphasis of the writings of the Apostle Paul.

Thus the constant study of the ministry given to him to help mature the saints preparing us for what is to come.

Further, looking at just what Paul went through to bring this message Understanding just what he went through with not only his brethren (the Jew).as well as these heathen gentiles in preparing us for the things to come as members o His body.

The Apostle Paul is a key figure. His writings are paramount for our growth and development. His direction imperative for our growth as he prepares us to Rule and Reign with the Lord Jesus.

Bear with me now as we look to our gaining rewards and crowns for the period of time to com.

Title of message is "crowns and rewards' available to every believer

We are not discussing our position with the Lord. We are discussing rewards available to every believer.

These rewards will be granted at the Judgement Seat of Christ – according to **2 Cor 5:10**

1st Corinthians 3: 1&following through 15

As we have discussed- two kinds of works – Gold Silver & precious stones (which I understand are not only hidden in the earth – but through great heat and pressure)

And wood, hay and stubble

The day when God returns or calls you home will determine the type - those wood hay and stubble will be destroyed by the fiery Holy Spirit on the way up – the others remain.

Those works which remain, are eligible for which we will receive rewards

Paul tells us to: run the race of life as one who will win the prize – **1Cor 9-24**

NOT TALKING ABOUT WHO GOES TO HEAVEN

Also – this is a heavenly scene – I believe after the rapture of the church.

Matt 25:14 - 30 following

Occupy until I come - ie. Keep on keeping on until I return – don't draw back, don't take a break, hang in there.

Luke 19:12-26

The issue is the talent – in this case money – we are not investing anything of our own. It is His talent.

If this talent has its origin in us – it is not the issue. Only what is of God will endure –

Things with its origin in me will not endure – will be burned up as wood hay and stubble.

Never forget that it is not capability in view, but availability. He must be the instigator of the talent.

I want to depart this money issue for a moment and look at other “talents” the Lord gives to His people.

Look with me at **Romans 12: 3-20**

Prophecy, Ministry, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading, mercy, love, ETC.

1st Cor 12: 4 & following - word of wisdom, word of knowledge, gifts of healings, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, different tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. Ministry of helps and ministry of administration. (Vs 27)

All are necessary for the health of the body. All should be active in the body and all are a part of Him who gives them to the body.

Side bar – that is one of my problems with huge mega churches – unless of course they have small groups where these ministries will be activated. Invested what He has given us. P.S. everyone has something – no excuses allowed.

So Jesus says: because you have been found faithful in the little. I will give you responsibility over much - 5 talents gets 5 more – 3 – 3 more etc.

Notice again the “unprofitable servant” given just one talent that refused to invest it.

Matt 25:24 and Luke 19:20

I want to look at vs 30 (Matt 25)

Cast the unprofitable servant into **Outer darkness** - This is not hell beloved – it means obscurity - I.e. Far away from the stage – not close to where Jesus is presently available. This place is further from His presence and this guy will regret his lack of faithfulness.

This statement leads me to believe that there will be some sort of “regret” in Heaven. Maybe missed opportunities,, fear of failure, not believing Him – I do not know what all, but we may be aware of our a lack of trust or confidence - I am not sure about this issue.

I am looking as are you for Him to say “well done good and faithful servant – enter now into your reward.”

Whatever your ministry gift, get it working - If you are a prayer -spend much time in prayer etc.

Luke 19 – “have authority over x number of cities.” Sally and I are going for the mountains of Montana – you can have Chicago and Houston if you prefer.

Paul said that He fights to win – not shadow boxing, or one who beats the air – lest when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway – **1st Cor 9:24** &following

Further Paul admonishes us to “press for the prize of the high calling in Christ” Phil 3:14

As we have said before – this is a heavenly scene. I am preparing a flow chart (crude that it may be) to give to each of you showing an overview of what is taking place on the earth and what is in the heavens at the same time. Need your home address to mail it to you to follow along.

Now along with the rewards and the ruling over cities etc. Jesus will be giving out CROWNS to believers - There are 5 mentioned in scripture –

To stir up ----- Numbers in scripture mean something special.

We should note them 1- unity 2-witness 3-divine perfection 4-The world 5 – The Grace of God, 6 – man 7 spiritual perfection – 8 – new beginning – 9 – fruit of the Spirit – 10 responsibility 11-judgment – 12 Government perfection – 13 – rebellion 14 deliverance or salvation – 15 rest – 16 love – 17 victory 18 bondage and on you go with them

5 crowns – number of grace

The 5 are: **1st Cor 9:25 – The Incorruptible Crown** - Given to those who seek incorruptible things. Setting your mind on things above – rather than things on this earth. Col 3:1-10 - Setting your affections on spiritual things rather than things of this earth.

The next crown available to every believer is; **First Thes: 2-19-** This is **the Crown of Rejoicing**. This crown is available to each of us as Fruit of our Labor on Earth. This is what you and I do, as well as our support for others doing the Lord's work.

Your support for missionaries, with prayer and financial support – your support for other folks doing ministry. None of your support goes unnoticed by Him. Prayer, financial etc. You are also a recipient of the fruit of their ministry. Souls for the kingdom by these men and women are credited to your account as you support their work.

The next crown available to all is the **Crown of Righteousness – 2Tim 4:8**

This crown is available to everyone who “loves the thought of His appearing” ie. Those who are continually “looking up” for the return of the Lord. We love the fact that He is coming soon. We look forward to the glorious appearing of Christ and His “calling up those who are his at the rapture.

The next crown is the **Crown of Life – James 1:12**

This crown is available to everyone who is able to endure TEMPTATION- Including earthly trials, persecutions, or even martyrdom. **Revelation 2:10-** read it

And Lastly- **1st Peter 5:1-4 Crown of Glory**

He is not speaking about the Office of an Elder – but rather anyone who functions as an elder. This is the man/woman who equips – teaches – helps mature every believer – working within the flock to bring the flock toward maturity in Him.

In conclusion **Revelation 4:10**

Jesus initiates it – he energizes it – he accomplishes it and you and I get the reward SUCH A GREAT DEAL...