

CHRISTIAN CROWNS

Text: 1 Cor. 3:14, “If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.”

One day it will be pay-day for the Christian! Just as Oscars are given to Hollywood’s winning actors, God will, at the Bema Seat Judgment, reward believers one day (1Cor: 3:1-15). The Lord’s rewards are varied and wonderful, and all of them are imperishable. The NT refers to them as crowns. Five crowns are mentioned throughout the epistles.

The Crown of Righteousness

2Tim.4:8 states, “*Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.*”

Imagine that, God gives a special crown to believers, who look up and fix their eyes and hearts heavenward in watchfulness for Christ’s glorious return. Are you longing for His return and appearing?

The Crown of Incorruptibility

This crown, often called the “**victor’s crown**” (1 Cor. 9:24-27), is for runners who run well and who win the prize. V 24 says: “**Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.**”

Are you running with certainty, purpose and intensity? Are you running to win?

The Crown of Glory

It is also known as the “*shepherd’s crown.*” It is a reward for elders, who have faithfully “fed the flock.” “*Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away*” (1 Pet. 5:1-4).

The Crown of Joy

This crown is handed out to those who are soul-winners. 1 Thess. 2:19, is where this fourth crown is found, “*For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when He comes? Is it not you?*”

This reward is for those who did not hide their lamp under a bushel, nor did they place it under a bed. They were instrumental in getting others to believe in Christ.

The Crown of Life

The fifth and final crown is presented to those who have suffered for the sake of Christ and His gospel as in James 1:12, “**Blessed is the man who perseveres under**

trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.”

Soli Deo Gloria