
CROWN REWARDS

Topic: The five possible crowns awaiting us in heaven are for rewards for our Christian works while here on earth in this lifetime.

Matt 5:1-12: the context of Jesus and His message here is people that are happy are people that are spiritually blessed. Theirs is the kingdom of heaven. God will bless you direct proportion to the seeking and understanding of His word.

Rewards are for service. Rewards are for works. Salvation is by grace. God understands our human nature, that we want something in return for our service, so He gives rewards for our service. Also see **Rev 11:18, Rev 22:12**

1 Cor 3:9: when we accepted Jesus into our hearts, we gave away our lives, gave away what we wanted to do with our life and gave it to the Lord. Jesus Christ is the foundation of our life. From that point on, we have to build upon it. We have an opportunity as a Christian, as a child of God, to built gems or trash. Every man's works will be displayed before everyone at the judgement seat of Christ. So live for that moment, not to impress sinners here on a daily basis. Everything action you take, every behaviour you exhibit, should be made on a conscious decision that you will not be embarrassed for the whole world and God to see it on judgement day. There will be no secrets. Many Christians will have all their works burned up because they worked for themselves, selfishness, vanity, etc. The works for the lord – charity, acts of compassion, etc, will shine through the fire and be on shown to everyone. He doesn't care what kind of clothes you wear, what kind of car you drive, or how much money you make. He just wants to know what you did for him.

There are 5 crowns mentioned in scripture. These are actual, physical, literal crowns.

THE INCORRUPTIBLE CROWN, or the Crown of Self-Denial

1 Cor 9:24-27: This clearly states that life is a race so you get good rewards for eternity. Paul says I'm not like a boxer out here, beating the air for nothing. I have a goal. Paul keeps his behaviour and actions monitored closely to be good so that when he is seen by others, he himself is not a bad example. When you become a Christian, you should stop the bad habits that you had. You can't live your life how you want because you'll be forgiven for it. That's wrong. You won't lose your salvation, but your rewards will be denied. This doesn't mean that you will instantly become perfect or ever become perfect in this lifetime. But it says STRIVE to be perfect and good, never give up the fight to be good and do the right thing. It's not easy living the Christian live. This is for seeking the word of God.

THE CROWN OF LIFE, or the Martyr's Crown or for Enduring Trials

James 1:12: Paul would subject his body to trials for the sake of Christ. See also **Rev 2:10**

THE CROWN OF GLORY or the Elder's Crown

1 Peter 5:1-4: For those who are pastors or teachers.

THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, or the Crown of Love of Christ's Return

2 Tim 4:8: This is given to any Christian who is looking forward to the second coming of Christ. "Perhaps today" is the message on a plaque on Carl's desk to remind him that the Lord is coming back, perhaps today. It is a nice reminder to hope in a kind, anticipatory way that the Lord is returning.

THE CROWN OF REJOICING, or the Soul-Winner's Crown

1 Thes 2:19: this is the witnessing crown. You will rejoice at seeing people you witnessed to up there in heaven.