

May 19, 2024

The Last Judgment – Lesson 7

By this time, we have learned that we will be rewarded for our ...*God deeds*...

Gal 5:16 ...walk [*deeds*] by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire [*deeds*] of the flesh... 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk [*deeds*] by the Spirit...

Now let's begin to consider the rewards that we will receive for our ...*good deeds*...

The N.T. mentions ...*crowns*... and ...*rewards*...

Crowns

The Greek for crown in the N.T. is *stephanos* that declares Jesus' victory over Satan.

1 John 3:8 The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

This morning, I will speak about the three crowns that each believer will receive at the bema:

...the crown of life... [**James 1:12; Rev. 2:10**]

...the crown of Righteousness... [**2 Tim. 4:8**]

...the imperishable crown of glory... [**1 Peter 5:4**]

These crowns have a double purpose:

1st, they declare Jesus' victory over sin, Satan and death.

1 Cor 15:55-57 ...O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY... 57 thanks be to God, Who gives us the Victory through our Lord Jesus Christ...

2nd, each crown reveals an aspect of Jesus' character as the Victorious ...the Son of Man...

The Crown of Righteousness

2 Tim 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of Righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, will award to me on that day [2 Cor. 5:10]; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

This crown is ...the crown of [God's] Righteousness...

2 Cor.5:21 *[God] made [Jesus] Who knew no sin to be sin [bearer] on our behalf, so that we might become the Righteousness of God in Him.*

When Paul received [John 1:12] Jesus, he also received *...the crown of Righteousness...* which would be rewarded to him at *...the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus [Titus 2:13].*

Paul was given the crown of Righteousness on the basis of God's gift [John 1:12; Eph. 2:8-9] to him in Christ.

In the same way, all who have been made *...the Righteousness of God in [Christ]...* will also be given the crown of Righteousness at the appearing of Jesus from Heaven.

And because we have been clothed with *...the Righteousness of God in [Christ]...* we can now walk in the *...good deeds...* of Righteousness.

The Crown of Life

James 1:12 *Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved [the bema], he will receive the crown of Life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

Rev 2:10 *Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of Life...*

This crown signifies the *...eternal Life...* that God gives us in Christ.

Rom 6:23 *...the Gift of God is eternal Life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

This *...Life...* is Jesus' own *a se* Life that He possesses because He is the Divine Son of God.

John 11:25 *I AM the resurrection and the Life...*

John 14:6 *I AM the Way and the Truth and the Life...*

John 14:19 *Because I live, you also will live...*

The Imperishable Crown of Glory

1 Peter 5:4 *...when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading [imperishable] crown of glory.*

This means that we will receive the crown of *...the glory of Christ, who is the image of God [2 Cor 4:4].*

This is in answer to Jesus' prayer in **John 17:22**, *The glory which You have given Me I have given to them...*

Next week we will speak about *...the crown of thorns...* that Jesus wore to the cross.