

## **Your Future Crown**

2 Timothy 4:8

### **Introduction:**

- A. The Bible states in several places that Christians will receive crowns.
  - a. What do you picture in your mind?
  - b. What practical value does this have for us today?
- B. 2 Timothy 4:8 promises a future crown.

### **Two qualities of the crown**

- A. Two Greek words are translated as crown.
  - 1. Diadema (where we get our word diadem) – this refers to a r\_\_\_\_\_ crown
  - 2. Stephanos (where the name Stephen comes from) – this refers to a v\_\_\_\_\_ crown given an athlete who has won a competition.
- B. In 2 Tim 4:8, the crown is a victory crown since the context has athletic metaphors (see verse 7). This is the first quality of the crown.
  - 1. The Christian life is pictured as a r\_\_\_\_\_ in Hebrews 12:1.
    - a. The competition is against s\_\_\_\_\_.
    - b. The competition is an e\_\_\_\_\_ race (not a sprint).
    - c. We can never e\_\_\_\_\_ the competition – we have to endure temptation until the day we die.
  - 2. The outcome is already given to those who have f\_\_\_\_\_
    - a. I Jn 5:4,5 - faith is the v\_\_\_\_\_ that overcomes the world.
    - b. The letters to the seven churches in Revelation all end with a promise to those who overcome.
  - 3. Paul states that the victory wreath \_\_\_\_\_ laid up for him – the victor's crown awaits all those who truly trust Christ.
- C. The second quality of this crown is that it is a r\_\_\_\_\_ crown.
  - 1. The righteous judge
    - a. Every competition has judges or referees to make sure athletes compete according to the r\_\_\_\_\_.
    - b. The righteous judge is identified as the L\_\_\_\_\_, which is Paul's common designation for J\_\_\_\_\_ (1Tim 1:2,12; 1Tim 6:3,14; 2 Tim 1:2)
    - c. Jesus qualifies to be this righteous judge because He has already run the race that the Father set before Him (Heb 12:2) – He endured the cross and now is the author and perfecter of faith.

- 1) The Greek word translated author can mean I \_\_\_\_\_ - Jesus ran the race before us.
- 2) The Greek phrase translated as perfecter of our faith means the one in whom faith is made c \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus, the righteous judge, puts the victory crown on believers and c \_\_\_\_\_ them righteous.

### Two questions about the crown

- A. Is this a real crown?
  1. The crown is a m \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Righteousness is the r \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Aren't believers already seen as righteous in God's sight? – there are three aspects to righteousness.
  1. There is the s \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness
    - a. We receive this at the moment we place our f \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (Rom 5:1)
    - b. Even though we s \_\_\_\_\_ from time to time, it does not affect our right standing with God.
  2. There is the a \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness
    - a. When you do what God w \_\_\_\_\_ you are doing a righteous act (see Rev 19:8)
    - b. Rom 6:13 states that we are to use our body parts as i \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness, not sin.
    - c. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness or perfection. – when Jesus returns he will make us perfect in body, soul, and spirit (1 Thess 5:23,24).

**Who qualifies for the crown?** – all those who have loved His appearing.

- A. What does the Lord's appearing refer to?
  1. Some think it to be His f \_\_\_\_\_ coming (Jn 1:1,14)
  2. But since Paul refers to "that day" as being future, he must be talking about the Lord's s \_\_\_\_\_ coming.
- B. Translations vary as to the tense of the love
  1. P \_\_\_\_\_ tense - those **who love** or eagerly look forward to His appearing (KJV and NLT)
  2. P \_\_\_\_\_ tense – those **who have loved** His appearing.
  3. The Greek text uses the perfect tense which means that Paul is picturing the person's life as a whole at the time of Jesus's appearing – they loved His appearing before He came and they still love it as they see Him coming.
- C. Who will not love His appearing?

1. 2 Pet 3:3,4 – those who m\_\_\_\_\_ the possibility of Jesus's coming.
  2. I Thess 5:3 – those to whom Jesus will come like a t\_\_\_\_\_ in the night (see also 1 Thess 4:16).
  3. Rev 1:7 – all the tribes of the earth who have rejected the gospel will m\_\_\_\_\_ at His coming (Matt 24:14; Rev 6:16).
- D. How do we love His appearing? – by looking forward to that day
1. This will help you e\_\_\_\_\_ difficulties, knowing that they are only temporary.
  2. This will help you r\_\_\_\_\_ temptation, knowing that you will be crowned the victor in the end.
  3. This will help you let your light s\_\_\_\_\_, knowing that your obedience is not in vain.
  4. This will help you bring that day closer as you cooperate in fulfilling Matt 28:18-20; Matt 24:14.