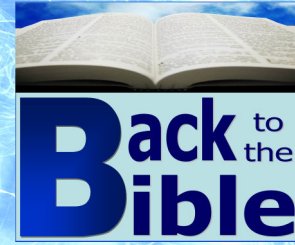


"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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FOR THE RECORD

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Sunday Bible Study | 23 |
| Sunday AM Worship | 40 |
| Sunday PM Worship | 23 |
| Wed. Bible Study | 22 |
| Offering | \$1626 |



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The Crown of Life

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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship:...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm & Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

There are two Greek words translated "crown" in the New Testament. The first one is *diadema* (from Strong's #1238), which is a royal crown, a ruler's crown. It is only used 3 times, all are found in the book of Revelation. In 12:3 it is on the dragon, in 13:1 it is found on the beast and in 19:12 it is one the rider of white horse, which is Jesus. The word simply means "symbolic power to rule." This word is used of Jesus in the song, "All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall! Bring forth the royal *diadem*, and crown Him Lord of all!" Jesus is "King of kings"! This word is never used in reference to Christians.

The second word used is *stephanos* (from Strong's #4735) and is the word from which we get the name, Stephen. The noun form is found 18 times in the New Testament (8 times in Revelation) and the verb, "to crown" is found 3 times. The word means, "a crown...chaplet, wreath {as put on our Lord Mt. 25:29; cf. Mk 15; Jn 19}, conferred on a victor in the public games...a reward, prize...a crown, ornament, honor, glory {Phil 4:1}" (Perschbacher, 378). This is the crown the faithful Christian will be given. Let us take a look at this crown and see what we can learn. This Crown of Life Is...

Continued Inside

How to Become a Member of the Church

HEAR the Gospel

- Romans 10:17
- John 8:32

BELIEVE the Gospel

- Hebrews 11:6
- Mark 16:16
- Acts 8:37

REPENT of Sins

- Luke 13:3, 5
- Acts 2:38
- Acts 17:30-31
- 2 Peter 3:9

CONFESS Christ

- Matthew 10:32-33
- Romans 10:9-10
- Acts 8:37

Be BAPTIZED

(Immersed)

- Acts 2:38
- 1 Peter 3:21
- Acts 22:16
- Mark 16:16
- Galatians 3:27
- Romans 6:3-5

"And the LORD ADDED to the church daily such as should be saved."

Acts 2:47

"And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

Mark 16:15-16

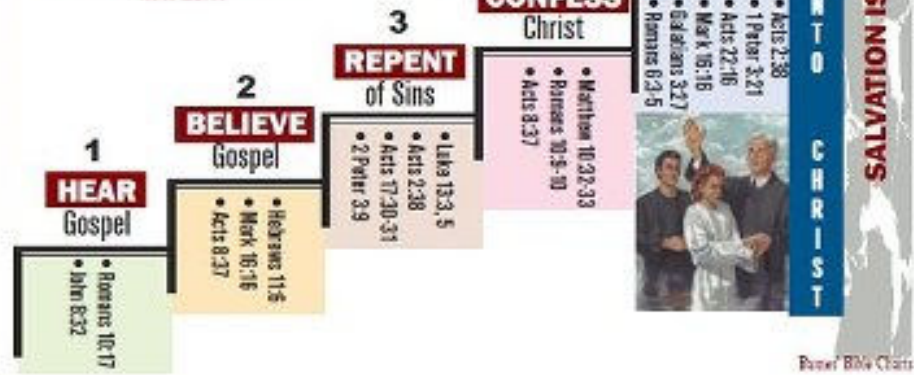
"Buried with Him in baptism . . ."

Colossians 2:12



"And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Acts 22:16



Power Bible Class

Our Reward

As a Christian, we have obtained the salvation that God has provided; we have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light. Having been lost in sin, God has cleansed us and made us His child! What has God asked in return? He has asked us to give up our lives in faithful service to Him (I Thessalonians 1:9b; Galatians 2:20). He expects us to give Him the control of our lives (II Corinthians 5:14). He has asked us to sacrifice all that we have (Matthew 6:33; Romans 12:1-2; II Corinthians 8:5).

What will we get in return? The crown of life; that is our reward! Paul said, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (I Corinthians 15:58). And John was instructed to “...Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them” (Revelation 14:13). This crown is described in many different ways: for example, it is, “many mansions” {literally, “dwelling places”} prepare place for you” (John 14:1f). Peter describes it as “an inheritance” (I Peter 1:4) and Paul calls it “...the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). It is called our “crown” in Revelation 2:10, “...I will give thee a crown of life.” In James 1:12 the one who overcomes temptation and sin “...shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” Paul was anticipating the “...crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (II Timothy 4:8).

Restricted:

Consider the question, to whom will this crown be given? In modern-day competitions everyone is given a “Participant Award,” which is a great disservice! Even those who, come in second, third, and sometimes even fourth place receive something! However, there can only be one winner! Not everyone gets first place. Not everyone participating will receive the reward. However, in the Christian race, it is not about finishing first, ahead of everyone else; it is not about beating each other. Our contest is against Satan! It’s all about finishing the race. All who finish the Christian race will be rewarded. The sad reality is though that not all who run will successfully finish; not all will be rewarded because it is restricted.

Consider with me the restrictions or conditions in order to receive the Reward. Again, James said in 1:12 “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” Jesus said in Revelation 2:10, “...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of

life.” Paul wrote “Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved & longed for, my joy & crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved” (Phil 4:1). Concerning his own life and service, Paul said, “I have fought a good fight, ...finished my course, ...kept the faith: ⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness...” (II Tim 4:7-8). He told Timothy, “if a man also strive for masteries {competes in athletics}, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully” (II Tim 2:5). I Cor 9:24 “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but I receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*.” Hebrews 12:1 “...let us lay aside every weight, & the sin which doth so easily beset us, & let...” May we take to heart the words of Paul in Philippians 3:13-14 “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, & reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Reserved

The Fact is, our reward cannot be taken away. A famous cyclist was stripped of his prize for violating the rules. This will not be so with our crown. If we do not follow the rules or meet the conditions, we will not receive it in the first place. The one giving the crown knows all things.

Our reward cannot be stolen by another. In 1983, the Jules Rimet Trophy was stolen from a display case in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.” If we meet the conditions God has given, our crown cannot be taken by anyone, even Satan himself. Jesus said, “Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown” (Revelation 3:11). Our crown will not “fade away.” The crown of first century games was a wreath of leaves or laurel, how long could it last? Paul said, “every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible” (I Corinthians 9:25). And Peter said, “when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away” (I Peter 5:4). When Paul said “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteous...” in II Timothy 2:8, the word “laid up” means “preserved, stored, reserved.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- July 25 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Aug 1 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Aug 8 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship Service (Song Service)
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell