

ARE YOU
MISSING A
CROWN?

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

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1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

2 Timothy 2:1-7 - continued

5 And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

6 The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.

7 Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

Introduction

A. Lessons from our text

1. Be strong in God's grace (v 1)
2. Encourage others to lead in the faith (v 2)
3. Be a good soldier for Christ (vv 3-4)

B. The path to a crown (vv 5-7)

1. Strive lawfully (v 5)
2. Labor incessantly (v 6)
3. Learn effectively (v 7)

I. The Effort Required

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And 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.

26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

I. The Effort Required

A. Run in the race (9:24)

B. Respect the training required (9:25)

C. Recognize what the race is about (9:26)

Philippians 3:14

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

D. Reject what causes defeat (9:27)

Hebrews 12:1

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

II. The Crowns That Are Waiting

A. The Crown of Life

1. Endure temptation through love of Christ

James 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.

2. Endure persecution through faith in Christ

Revelation 2:10

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

II. The Crowns That Are Waiting

B. The Crown of Righteousness

2 Timothy 4:8

Henceforth there is laid up for me a 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.

1. Live a life expecting Christ's return

2. Live a life exemplary of Christ's righteousness

1 Peter 2:21

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

II. The Crowns That Are Waiting

C. The Crown of Glory

1 Peter 5:1-4

1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.

4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

II. The Crowns That Are Waiting

C. The Crown of Glory

1. Cognizant of duties as a leader

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

2. Care as a leader

Acts 20:28

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

II. The Crowns That Are Waiting

C. The Crown of Glory

3. Consideration for those led

a. Willing (v 2)

b. Ready (v 2)

c. A proper example (v 3)

1 Timothy 4:12

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

II. The Crowns That Are Waiting

D. The Crown of Rejoicing (Soul-Winners Crown)

1 Thessalonians 2:19

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

Philippians 4:1

Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

Proverbs 11:30

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

II. The Crowns That Are Waiting

E. The Incorruptible Crown

1 Corinthians 9:25

And 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.

1. Must learn temperance

2 Peter 1:6

And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

II. The Crowns That Are Waiting

E. The Incorruptible Crown

2. Must exhibit temperance

Galatians 5:22-24

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

III. The Care For These Crowns

A. They must be guarded

Revelation 3:11

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

B. They will be used to glorify God

Revelation 4:10-11

**10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,
11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**

Spiritual Crowns
You Must Want Them
You Must Work For Them
You Must Worship With Them