

**Why Live For God?:
Future Rewards For Faithful Followers (Part 1)**

CROWNS

The Nature of the Crowns:

1 Cor 9:24-27 ²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain [it]. ²⁵ And everyone who competes [for the prize] is temperate in all things. Now they [do it] to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable [crown]. ²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as [one who] beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring [it] into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.)

1. **Earned by Behavior:** “run,” “fight,” “discipline”
2. **Eternal in Quality:** “imperishable” (cp. 1 Pet 5:4 “does not fade away”)

The Identity of the Crowns:

1. **The Crown of Righteousness** (2 Tim 4:7-8)

2 Tim 4:7-8 ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

a. **Rewarded Behavior:**
Righteous living focused on the return of the Lord.

b. **Key Words:** “Looking Ahead” (anticipation)

c. **Related Passages:**

- **Titus 2:12-13** ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
- **1 John 3:2-3** ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

2. **The Crown of Life (James 1:12)**

James 1:12 Blessed [is] the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

a. **Rewarded Behavior:**
Enduring temptation out of love for the Lord.

b. **Key Words:** “Keeping On” (endurance)

c. **Related Passages:**

- **Matt 5:10-12** ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great [is] your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- **1 Pet 2:20** For what credit [is it] if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this [is] commendable before God.
and possibly
- **Heb 11:35** Women [received] their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

3. **The Crown of Glory** (1 Peter 5:1-4)

1 Pet 5:1-4 ¹ The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: ² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

a. **Rewarded Behavior:** Shepherding God's people God's way.

b. **Key Word:** “Caring Carefully”

c. **Related Passages:**

- **Heb 13:17** Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.
- **2 Tim 4:1-5** ¹ I charge [you] therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, [because] they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn [their] ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.