

Week of September 20, 2009
Bro. Steve Farris

Monday

1 Corinthians 9:25 "Everyone who competes in the games exercises self control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable."

The Crown of Victory or the Incorruptible Crown: It is given to those who do not give up in the face of difficulties, hardships and trials. Paul said in Romans 8:18 that the sufferings of this life cannot compare to the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Tuesday

1 Thessalonians 2:19 "For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not you, in the presence of our Lord at his coming?"

The Crown of Rejoicing: Believers who share their faith with others earn the right to rejoice over those whom they led to the Savior. Proverbs 11:30 says, "And he who wins souls is wise."

Wednesday

2 Timothy 4:7-8 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith, in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the RIGHTEOUS Judge will award not only to me but to all who have loved his appearing."

The Crown of Righteousness: Christians, who have lived a godly life, longing for the Lord's return, will receive this one. Although they still sin on occasion, they are quick to confess and restore their fellowship with God. "If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

Thursday

James 1:12 "Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial, for when he has been approved he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Matthew 5:11-12 "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad for your reward in heaven is great for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The Crown of Life: Not only do trials allow us the opportunity to grow spiritually and experience more of God's comfort, but one day we will be honored for persevering through them.

Friday

1 Peter 5:4 "And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory."

James 3:1 "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such, we will incur a stricter judgment."

The Crown of Glory: This reward is reserved for faithful pastors/teachers who shepherd their flocks well, resist the temptation to please men instead of the Lord, and don't compromise the truth of God's Word.

What is the final destiny of these crowns? We will cast them at the feet of Jesus (Revelations 4:10-11). Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ equipped us to perform good deeds. That's why *He* deserves all the glory and honor – not us.