

CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The man who preserves his ultimate loyalty to Christ
must remain in the eyes of the world a fool
because he has placed himself alongside the
One who was and is despised and rejected of man. (Isaiah 53:3)

All the updating in the world
cannot free a truly Christian theology
from that scorn and rejection.

But the scorn and rejection are easily overcome
as soon as Christ is abandoned.

The real danger to the Church and to the Christian
is not that his theology may appear foolish and weak to men,
but that it may be more popular, like the Beatles,
and attract general attention and approval.

Harold O. J. Brown " *THE PROTEST OF A TROUBLED PROTESTANT* " .

To me... This is truly the '**GOLD**' of the crowns!

Ask the question:

Why did JESUS CHRIST have to go to the cross and die that shameful death of Spiritual death?

Why indeed?

Because God is a Perfectly Righteous God and all mankind is unrighteous in His sight.

Multitudes of people wear 'crosses' around their necks but how wonderful it will be to wear for all eternity the true image of what JESUS CHRIST is all about.

He satisfied the Perfect Righteousness of God on the cross.

He imputes God's Perfect Righteousness to everyone who believes.

He gives the **CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS** at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

2 Timothy 4:8

8 **in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.**

Once again, we are taken back to the TEN QUESTIONS of JOB.

Job 4:17

17 **'Can mankind be just before God? Can a man be pure before his Maker?'** The word translated 'JUST' is the Hebrew word **sadaq** meaning to be righteous or just.

Can mankind be righteous before God?

And the answer of course is no,

there is none righteous, no not one.

God is perfect Righteous and we are unrighteous so there is an impassable gulf between God and man.

But our Savior-Friend, Jesus Christ, came in the form of man and established a bridge between the Perfect Righteous God and unrighteous man, and that bridge is the cross.

All a person, any person, has to do is to believe in JESUS CHRIST and that person is imputed with the Perfect Righteousness of God.

And now, dear people, while you will be perfectly righteous through all eternity you have the opportunity of wearing an outer crown of that Righteousness for all eternity, glorifying JESUS CHRIST and thanking JESUS CHRIST for imputing to you His own Perfect Righteousness.

Job 8:3

3 **"Does God pervert justice? Or does the Almighty pervert what is right?"**

And this, my friends, is at the core of our lives—**judicial setting**. We are studying the Judgment Seat of Christ but we have the inner peace that

there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

And why not?

Because God does not pervert Justice and declare one Righteous who is not in Christ Jesus. And we stand righteous before the Justice of God because of what JESUS CHRIST did for us and now we can wear on our heads for all eternity a wreath that will eternally praise JESUS CHRIST.

Job 9:2

2 **"In truth I know that this is so; But how can a man be in the right before God?"**

This is the same Hebrew word we saw in Job 4:17 "**sadaq**" meaning righteous.

How can a man be righteous before God?

I will tell you how:

"Because JESUS CHRIST is the righteousness of God (1 John 2:1) and when anyone believes in JESUS CHRIST as their Savior they are imputed with God's perfect Righteousness and placed in Christ and they are therefore Righteous before God. And we can wear for all eternity a crown that will glorify the Righteousness of JESUS CHRIST and glorify the Righteousness of His Father and ours, God the Father.

Job 15:14

14 **"What is man, that he should be pure, Or he who is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?"**

And for all eternity we can wear a crown that will glorify the only one born of woman yet perfect in Righteousness.

This crown will forever remind us that we were born unrighteous yet, but because of our Savior we are eternally righteous.

So, people, we see that Righteousness, not Love, is the great issue before God. And we can wear the badge, **CROWN** that will Glorify the One who was and is eternally Righteous before God and because of whom we are Righteous before God.

2 Timothy 4:8

8 **in the future**

We now have to pause and read verses 6-7

6 **For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.**

(Departure from this earth to heaven, from this life to life in the presence of JESUS CHRIST.)

7 **I have fought the good fight,**

(We saw last week how Faith, not doing something but Faith is the great battle, our flesh nature does not want to give over to God but desires to get all the credit, so the battle everyday of our lives is the battle of Faith.)

I have finished the course,

(This introduces part of the basis of the receiving of this reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ. God has a Plan for everyone from the moment you believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior. The great problem is that few believers can

finish the course. They get distracted by other things. Not necessarily sinful things, but things of this world... Family, Wealth, Pleasure, etc.

It is most difficult to stay in the Plan of God throughout your life!

I have kept the faith; (This time this word refers to that which is believed –*I have kept the unit of doctrines* that glorify JESUS CHRIST.

Now we come to verse 8.

- 8 **in the future** (This is so peaceful, Paul has turned away from time here on earth with no regrets and is looking forward to immediately going to heaven where there is nothing but the eager anticipation of unspeakable blessings... referring specifically to the Judgment Seat of Christ and which occurs right after the Rapture **there is laid up for me.**

How about the history of man: we have things we value—and appreciate for various reasons. Sometimes it's value sometimes its sentimental value.

One of the problems today is that so often you cannot just leave out to look at and enjoy, you have to hide it away so it won't get stolen. Our liberal government so often protects the house breaker over the house owner. But we hide up things we value. Well, when Paul thinks of going to heaven and living in the eternal states, what he really values will not be hidden.

It is 'laid up' in heaven right now and he will receive it openly at the Judgment Seat of Christ and will wear it openly for all to see for all eternity.

Think about it, wouldn't you like to have something so precious, so valuable, to wear for all eternity? Well, you can!!

IT IS A PRECIOUS WREATH!

THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

What do you think about when you think of heaven?

What do you think about when you think of dying?

Most people think of others, someone they loved here on earth, I can't wait to be with my mother, father, children, husband, wife etc.

But Paul, as he approaches death and thinks about heaven he thinks of the reward he will receive and wear for all eternity. Everyone will recognize Paul, in his Resurrected Body for he will have at least three wreaths but to him to most important of all will be the wreath of Righteousness. **Why?**

Why is this wreath so important to Paul? Not his resurrected body minus his Inherited Sin Nature, but the **CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. Why?**

Because more than anything else... forever and ever that wreath glorifies Jesus Christ.

That wreath that he will wear on his head for all eternity will forever give glory to JESUS CHRIST.

And people, every one of you has the opportunity to wear this glorifying wreath for all eternity. Have you ever passed a person wearing a 'purple heart' medal or the Congressional Medal of Honor? Those are great tributes to America. They loved America and demonstrated that love by action under pressure.

Here is something else about
the **CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**,
this is not given for works, but for love of Christ.

In the future there is laid up for me (What joy, what peace, what anticipation of, after death, knowing that there is something as wonderful as this waiting for you.

And for you, young people,
do not fear death but take full advantage of your life
—to receive the **CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

You anticipate graduation as you go through K to 12; and how you anticipate receiving that diploma well, here is something to really strive for—something to remain faithful to throughout your life—Receiving the **CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**.
It is Laid Up for You!!!

It is not wrong to anticipate receiving that diploma and dear young people it is not wrong to anticipate receiving the rewards from JESUS CHRIST.

In the future there is laid up for me
(In the Greek, this is a **DATIVE OF ADVANTAGE**; it will be to your eternal advantage to receive this reward.)

Let me tell you something, there is no greater advantage in eternity in heaven than receiving this decoration that you will wear on your head for all eternity.

THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

That is the crown that glorifies the perfect righteousness of Jesus our Savior-Friend.

People, if we could but apprehend all that is involved with the issue of God's Perfect Righteousness and our unrighteousness and the Perfect Righteousness of Jesus Christ and how by Faith alone in Christ alone we are imputed –made perfectly Righteous as JESUS CHRIST is righteous.

which the Lord, the righteous Judge, (Paul refers to JESUS CHRIST as the Righteous Judge to dramatize the significance of this wreath. The Greek word **righteous dikaios** is an adjective, meaning Right, Just or Righteous.

Again, people this is the issue in our salvation. This centers on the essence of God! Many like to quote 1 John "God is love", but never forget that God's essence is Perfect Righteous and He cannot act outside of His Righteousness. And here it refers to the essence of JESUS CHRIST. Then we have the noun **kristes** to judge, referring to one who decides. Here this judge is described as a Righteous Judge. To give you some idea of the weight of this noun '**judge**'; in one Lexicon it covers four columns. It refers to the One who sits to render Justice. And it is used to describe JESUS CHRIST.

People, please understand that JESUS CHRIST is the Son of God, JESUS CHRIST is the God-man. JESUS CHRIST is the Savior of the world. But never forget that JESUS CHRIST is our Judge. JESUS CHRIST is often described at the judge, separating the sheep from the goats, the wheat from the tares, the wheat from the chaff (garbage, dross, rubbish, trash).

Matthew 25:46

46 **"These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."**

Loving JESUS CHRIST with the love from the Holy Spirit is the basis of rewards but not Eternal Life. Eternal Life is dependent upon possessing Perfect Righteousness. And, yes, there will be multitude of people, created by God, loved by God, who will be in eternal punishment because they have rejected the Love Offering of God; that is, they have refused to believe in His Son, Jesus the Christ.

Psalms 7:9

9 **O let the evil of the wicked** (Those who refuse to believe in JESUS CHRIST, they are considered wicked by God even if their deeds are considered good by man) **come to an end, but establish** (That is cause to stand firm) **the righteous;** This Hebrew word refers to those who conform to the Perfect Standard of God's Righteousness.
For the righteous God tries (judges) **the hearts and minds.** Not so much the actions, but the hearts—the minds = THE SOUL.

10 **My shield is with God,** (rewards in eternity but shield in time) **Who saves** (delivers) **the upright in heart.** God judges the soul.

11 Now for our verse 11
God is a righteous judge,
This declaration is so important when you consider

Job 8:3

3 **Does God pervert Justice or does the Almighty pervert what is right?** And the resounding answer is NO, and why not? **God is a righteous judge And a God who has indignation every day.** (When you want to excuse God's wrath, just remember this) **He has indignation everyday** (This Hebrew word comes from one who foams at the mouth. That is, God is declared to be angry at Unrighteousness every day.)

2 Timothy 4:8

8 **in the future** (the Judgment Seat of Christ) **there is laid up** (Reserved) **for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award** (FUTURE TENSE, referring to the Judgment Seat of Christ) **to me on that day;**

Lexicon: "to give or to do something necessary in fulfilling of an obligation or expectation."

While it does not say specifically the **CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, remember James 1:12

12 **Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.**

2 Timothy 4:8

8 **...and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.** (now don't be confused by the fact that this is translated in the past tense)
...who have loved His appearing

In the Greek this is **PERFECT ACTIVE PARTICIPLE** and the **PERFECT PARTICIPLE** stresses the state brought about by the finished results of the action.

In other words, while the believer is alive on earth, during the Church AGE he loved and anticipated the appearing of the Lord, that is he loved the day when he/she would see the Lord at the Rapture, but the action is now viewed from the standpoint of when he is standing before JESUS CHRIST at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

So, we come to the all-important question of
“What are the bases of receiving the Wreath of Righteousness?”

To grasp the first requirement to receive the Wreath of Righteousness, we must examine this paragraph 2 Timothy 4:6-8

6 **For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.**

7 **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;**

8 **in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award**

to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

First, you will note that there is a no period after verse 7, meaning that what follows in verse 8 is but a continuation of verse 7.

Paul is declaring that he has fulfilled the Plan of God for his life. Here is where the Doctrine of the Judgment Seat of Christ comes into all importance for a young person, a young believer in JESUS CHRIST. Your entire life is vital to the day when you stand before JESUS CHRIST at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Knowing the Will of God for your life and then fulfilling the Will of God for your life.

I.

A THE OPERATIONAL WILL OF GOD

What does God want me to do?

1. This may surprise you; but this is the same for every believer. So, as you grow and maybe get married this will be the same for both of you.
2. Every believer is to be Filled with the Holy Spirit by Grace through Faith; This is also called: Walking in the Spirit, being Led by the Spirit; Live by the Spirit and Keep in Step with the Spirit. This is where you or

you and your spouse encourage each other to always be Filled with the Holy Spirit.

3. There are several assets that God has graciously supplied most believers throughout history.
 - a. Canon of Scripture; this is supplied to most believers but there are some believers who have to come by this in more difficult means. Study the life of Watchman Nee.
 - b. Local Church—to fellowship with others of like-mind.
 - c. Pastor-Teacher who studies and teaches the Word of God.
 - d. At least one Spiritual Gift to serve the Lord in that Local Church.
 - e. Such assets as Prayer; Witnessing to others, Growing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST and of God the Father.

B THE VIEWPOINT WILL OF GOD

What does God want me to think?

- 1 This is the same for every believer – so, if you are thinking of getting married, this is far more important than how they look or how much money they can make.
- 2 His Viewpoint is given in the Word of God and, therefore, depends on the believer living in the Word

of God so that his/her thinking will be the same taken from the Word of God.

C THE GEOGRAPHICAL WILL OF GOD

Where does God want me to be?

- 1 This is different for every believer (except married couples)
- 2 This area of the Will of God will be easily grasp by the Filling of the Holy Spirit and prayer and may involve providential circumstances.

II.

THINGS DECLARED IN SCRIPTURES TO BE THE WILL OF GOD.

- 1 It is the Will of God that every member of the human race be born again.

2 Peter 3:9

- 3 **The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**

1 John 2:17

- 2 **The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.**

1 John 3:23

- 3 **This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.**

1 Timothy 2:3-4

- 3 **This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,**

4 **who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

2 It is the Will of God that all believers be experientially sanctified 1 Thessalonians 4:3

3 **For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality;***

A believer is to be set apart to God by living in the power and leading of the HS and, therefore, by the power of the Holy Spirit the believers is set apart from the world.

3 It is the Will of God that all believers be Filled with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18

18 **And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,** (Therefore, every believer should know how to be Filled with the Holy Spirit: by Grace through Faith... Trusting in the Holy Spirit as you trusted in JESUS CHRIST.

4 It is the Will of God that we give thanks to God in Everything.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

18 **in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

5 It is the Will of God that believers suffer.

1 Peter 3:17

17 **For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.**

1 Peter 4:19

19 **Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.** Suffering is designed by God to bless us therefore we are to give thanks in all things and this includes suffering for the glory of JESUS CHRIST

6 It is the Will of God for every believer to be productive.

1 Peter 2:15

15 **For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.**

7 And by doing the Will of God you may receive rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ

Hebrews 10:36

36 **For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.**

Thanks to R. B. Thieme for the Doctrine of Divine Guidance

The first basis of receiving the
CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
is to do the Will of God throughout your life.

The second is to **Love the Lord** and **Love His Coming.**

**will award to me on that day;
and not only to me,**

but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying,
“I am the Light of the world;
he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness,
but will have the Light of life.” John 8:12



*And I thank God for the lighthouse,
I owe my life to Him.
For Jesus is the lighthouse
And from the rocks of sin;
He has shone a light around me
That I could clearly see,*

*If it wasn't for the lighthouse
Tell me where would this ship be.*