

## Crown of Joy

**1 Thess. 2:19** For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?

**Phil. 4:1** Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

The Crown of Righteousness is directly related to the righteousness of Jesus Christ graciously given to those who persevere in the service of Christ and love His appearing. The Crown of Life is directly related to persevering through suffering in your love of JESUS CHRIST. The Crown of Joy is directly related to those you lead to Christ.

**1 Thess. 2:19:** For who is our hope – or confidence or joy...

**JOY:** This is from the Greek noun *charah* which means to rejoice, joy, rejoicing gladness, this comes from the same root as the word for Grace.

**1 Thess. 2:19:** ...or crown of exultation?

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**EXULTATION:** This noun means ‘to boast’ or ‘to glory in’ ‘to rejoice’ and ‘exultation’. In 1 Cor. 1:31 we are instructed that in regards to Salvation or in Spirituality, we are told not to boast of ourselves but to boast in the Lord. But as we live our Christian lives and lead others to Christ as their Savior we should find exultation in those who are with us for all eternity.

**1 Thess. 2:19: ...Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?**

This refers to the Rapture of the Church and especially when we stand before Him at the Judgement Seat of Christ.

You will recall that the Crown of Righteousness is also directly related to the appearing of JESUS CHRIST.

**2 Tim. 4:8 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.**

Believers should never be ashamed of speaking of or anticipating the Rapture of the Church, when we will see our Savior-Friend.

**Phil. 4:1 Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.**

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You will notice twice in this one verse Paul refers to these believers as ‘his beloved’ This refers to the uniting of all believers in the Love of Christ. This is how we ought to regard one another: as fellow recipients of the love of Christ at the cross.

I hope you get the picture—the Rapture occurs and all the saints are gathered together with JESUS CHRIST. You look around and you begin to see some people that bring great joy to you. No it is not your parents, but it is those you have had a part in their salvation. And let me make this picture clear, some person comes up to you and you do not recognize their face. They say to you, “Weren’t you a member of SVBC?” To which you reply “Yes.” And they tell you that they believed in JESUS CHRIST at a Liberty Youth camp one summer way back on earth. Can you just image your joy, your exultation that you had a part of their being in heaven forever???

What a thrill!! What exultation!! “If I had only given more for camp. If I had only told more people about the glory of Jesus Christ.” Or someone runs up to you and says, “You don’t remember me but on a plane you gave me the gospel and while I did not believe right then, right there, your words kept ‘nagging’ at me and one day I decided to believe in JESUS CHRIST...Thank you so much!”

“I can only imagine” the joy that you will experience. “Now I wished I had told others about JESUS CHRIST” Well, you can.

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You are still alive and there are multitude of unbelievers in this city, waiting to be part of your crown of joy for all eternity. Living in the New Heavens and the New Earth---living crowns of your exultation, your boasting.

Your walking trophies – walking on the streets of gold and not agonizing in the lake of fire, all because you told them of Jesus your Savior-Friend, and how He can be their savior by faith alone. Evangelist Billy Graham died just recently. It is such encouragement to hear all the thanks to him for bringing people to saving knowledge of JESUS CHRIST. Encouragement to each one of us to go and tell others of JESUS CHRIST. How wonderful it will be at the presence of JESUS CHRIST to have someone come up to you and thank you as a member of ‘SVBC’ for putting out the gospel on the inter-net – and hear someone express to you, “I lived in the foreign country of Taiwan and I believed in JESUS CHRIST listening to your sponsored broadcast.” What do you think that will do to your soul in heaven? There is your crown, actually walking around on those streets of gold, not on your head but praising JESUS CHRIST in the New Heaven! A walking crown!!!! That you exult in!

### **Receiving the Crown of Joy**

We have studied what the basis are for receiving the Crown of Life, and for receiving the Crown of Righteousness, but what are the basis for receiving the Crown of Joy?

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In simple terms: ‘win’ someone to Christ.

**“As we win people to Christ, we are in fact winning the very ones that will be our crowns of joyful exultation in the presence of Jesus in heaven at the *bema*.” Joe L. Wall**

**Personal Witnessing**

**1. Every believer is an Ambassador for Christ.**

This should be your mental attitude. Therefore, every believer is responsible to tell others of the Gospel of JESUS CHRIST

**2 Cor. 5:17-21 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our**

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**behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

This means every believer in JESUS CHRIST can receive the Crown of Joy.

Yes, there are those with the gift of evangelist or perhaps even gift of witnessing, but to witness for JESUS CHRIST is the responsibility and privilege of every born again believer

**2 Tim. 4:5 But you, every believer be sober**

It is amazing how some people like the Baptist, every time they see this word all they can think about is drinking or not drinking alcohol. But the word is a play on over drinking. It means to be sober in your thinking and in your witness for JESUS CHRIST *in all things*. We are to be witnesses of JESUS CHRIST in every area of our lives, lips, actions--life *endure hardship*, this is becoming a reality in America *do the work of an evangelist*, give the gospel to everyone, be a witness for JESUS CHRIST *fulfill your ministry*, whatever it is. This includes witnessing for JESUS CHRIST.

We have left the unbelievers alone long enough!

Just like some have the spiritual gift of giving. But we are all to give. So, we are all to witness for JESUS CHRIST.

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Don't go running to the phone to call someone to come over and witness to someone, you witness to them!! Don't give someone else that reward, you grab it.

You witness. You gain the Crown of Joy.

You want to be wise in God's eyes? Be a witness of and for JESUS CHRIST.

**Prov.11:30 the fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who is wise wins souls.**

Let's slow down for this rich verse.

FIRST, as Franz Delitzsch points out "*the fruit of the righteous*" here is not the good which his conduct brings to him as Isa. 3:10, Jere. 32:19, but his activity itself proceeding from an internal impulse. This fruit is the tree of life. "*And he who is wise wins souls*" The physicist Stephen Hawkins was considered by many as the wisest man on earth. But think about this, in God's eyes, when you give the gospel to an unbeliever you are wise! 'Wins souls' brings understanding to "the tree of life" You win them over to eternal life.

Are you wise? Then witness for Christ.

***Prov. 14:25 A truthful witness saves lives,*** this refers to those who present the true gospel.

***But he who utters lies is treacherous.*** This refers to those who present a false gospel, a gospel of works.

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**Dan. 12:3 Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.**

**1 Cor. 9:19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more.**

**1 Cor. 9:20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law**

**1 Cor 9:21 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law.**

**1 Cor 9:22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.**

These verses should express our thoughts everyday. To be wise, be a truthful witness, to have insight and whatever it takes to lead one to Christ we will do. You may not be wise in the eyes of the world, nor successful, but in God's estimation, we can be wise and successful by leading others to JESUS CHRIST. And receive the Crown of Joy!

**2. Three grace endowments to be an Ambassador for Christ.**

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FIRST: Filling of the Holy Spirit.

*Acts 1:8 but you will receive power* beginning of the Church Age; Day of Pentecost *when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;* Throughout the Church Age every time one believes in Jesus Christ, he receives the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit; one of the 34 things God gives to everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST

*and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”*

And today we are in a remote area of the earth. To Jew first the important thing here is that God graciously gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior; but...the issue is being Filled with the Holy Spirit, empowered by Holy Spirit, walking in Holy Spirit; following the Holy Spirit, moved by the Holy Spirit to witness concerning JESUS CHRIST. How does the believer do these things? Many believers know something about the Holy Spirit but very few know how to be Filled with the Holy Spirit.

*Col. 2:6 as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord so walk in Him.* How did you receive JESUS CHRIST? By FAITH! But remember the issue with faith is the object of faith. Is your Faith, the Faith that God is looking for?

**John 6:26-29 Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal." 28 Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."**

God has sent His Son for our Eternal Life—believe in JESUS CHRIST as your personal Savior.

God has sent His Spirit for our spirituality – we put our Faith in the Holy Spirit.

So the Holy Spirit is the power and guidance in being a witness for Christ...This is why He was sent:

**John 16: 7-11 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not**

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**go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.**

Every believer is commissioned to be a witness for JESUS CHRIST; and every believer is equipped with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. *Do not get in His way!*

SECOND: The Gospel

**Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.**

The Problem here is that so few know the simple gospel.

Many add to the simple gospel believe on the Lord JESUS CHRIST and thou shall be saved. So many want to add to just believing in JESUS CHRIST: you have to do something else.

THIRD: The Word of God—we have already covered the HOLY SPIRIT. Well, the Word of God in Eph. 6:17 says the sword of

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the Spirit which is the Word of God. The Gospel is defined and explained in and by the Word of God. OK, what is this saying? You have the Holy Spirit in you, now you have to get the Word of God in you, but the big problem here is getting the Word of God in truth in you. There are so many false gospels out there because there are so many interpretations of the Word of God. We have to start out with someone who believes that the Bible is the infallible, inerrant, the Divinely inspired Word of God. This will not guarantee that you will see it correctly. But we are limited to the Word of God. But when you are witnessing, don't argue about the Bible, just use it.

**Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

Relationship between the Holy Spirit and the Word of God:

**1 Cor.1:18 - For the word of the cross (content of the gospel) is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

You see when you are witnessing, you do not have to know all about them and their career –Jews, doctors, military types etc. All that stuff is

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centered on the wrong thing...*all you need to know and understand is the Gospel.*

**Isa. 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.**

Not every time you witness to someone with the gospel, will they believe. But, you must understand that you are not a failure, they are not saying *no* to you, they are saying no to God the Holy Spirit.

- 3. We have seen that every believer is to be a witness of JESUS CHRIST but what is our motivation to witness for JESUS CHRIST?**

**FIRST 2 Cor. 5:** The great confidence chapter of the Bible. Great confidence in witnessing.

**2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;**

For the love of Christ there must be motivation to witness. We start off with the primary motivation to witness the love of Christ not for your love of the human race but because of your relationship with JESUS CHRIST and His love toward you! Think about this: For God so loved the world, He sent His Son.

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That word *to send* emphasizes the relationship between the one doing the sending and those to whom He is sent. This word does not emphasize the relationship between the one doing the sending God the Father with the one sent, God the Son.

Point: Because God the Father loves the world full of unbelievers, full of sinners, full of enemies, because God the Father loves them, this motivates JESUS CHRIST to go to the cross.

Now here in 2 Cor. 5:14 the issue is not mankind but the love of JESUS CHRIST and our response to that love, our response to JESUS CHRIST's love. We are motivated to tell everyone about so great a love. I have heard on the internet so many testimonies of Muslims who came to believe in JESUS CHRIST. What drew them was when they learned about the Love of God and the Love of JESUS CHRIST and the love of believers in JESUS CHRIST, not hate but love. We love Him because He first loved us.

***For the love of Christ:*** Please do not forget that JESUS CHRIST's love is from the Holy Spirit, otherwise we could not love as He loves.

***controls us,*** This is not our love for Him but His love for us. The Greek word means to hold on, to sustain.

Now pay close attention to the wording of the next phrase: ***having concluded this,*** this is an Aorist Participle. In Greek the action of Aorist Participle *precedes the action of the main verb.* Before the

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Love of JESUS CHRIST controlled them, Paul analyzed the Love of Jesus Christ and came to this conclusion.

FIRST: Paul looked at what Christ did for all mankind and was overwhelmed by such a love that he then came to a conclusion to be possessed by such a love.

Some ladies are treated with respect and care by a man to the point they are overwhelmed and come to the conclusion they want to love this man and love as he loves them—

*For the love of Christ* toward the world now *controls us having concluded* after examining all the facts, after examining the fact that JESUS CHRIST died for all...wow—such love I am controlled by

*that one* JESUS CHRIST *died* spiritual death (3 dark hours) *for all*, for every unbeliever and everyone who would believe in *Him therefore all died*; we have studied this in the study of 3 hours of Darkness. JESUS CHRIST died for all who are spiritually dead. This includes every member of the human race. Since JESUS CHRIST died for every member of the human race, out of His love. It is the plan and purpose of God that all receive the gospel. This is where we come into our study of witnessing for Christ, telling everyone that Christ died in their place. God the Father will make spiritually alive all who believe in His Son. We are here not for ourselves, not for our prosperity but to reach the world with the Gospel. And God does not intend for one or two to

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reach the whole world with the gospel. We are all recipients of this love and therefore are to tell others of this so great a love that they may be controlled by this love.

**SECOND:** To receive the Crown of Joy

**THIRD:** To demonstrate that we are truly wise ( Proverbs 11:30)

4. We have the privilege of giving the gospel to an unbeliever, but it is the Holy Spirit who does the work. We cannot argue one into grace. JESUS CHRIST made this clear to the disciples and us just before going to the cross.

**John 16:7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (the parakletos) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.**

Don't try to do HIS job, you just present the truth of the gospel and it is then up to the Holy Spirit to convict from within.

**The Second Sending: the departure of JESUS CHRIST and the coming of Holy Spirit**

**John 16:7 "But I tell you the truth, it is for your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.**

But I, myself, tell you – for your advantage the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away

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Do you realize that we live in one of the greatest dispensations or periods of human history, with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The only thing better will be in the Millennium when there will be the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the physical presence of JESUS CHRIST.

Just note the progression in this verse:

I go away, from you if I do not go away from you the Holy Spirit will not come to you but if I go away from you I will send Him to you *condition of Second Sending*.

*It is to your advantage that* here is the purpose of JESUS CHRIST

*I go away For if I do not go away from you*

*the helper parakletos* King James—*comforter* and in context, this is most befitting, for they are *sorrowful at His departure* and the comforter will come to comfort them in their sorrow. *For if I do not go away, the parakletos shall not come to you*

Why not? Why will the Holy Spirit not come if JESUS CHRIST is still here on earth?

**John 7:38-39 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed**

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**in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.**

But after the Death, Burial, Resurrection, Ascension, Session Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of God in glory. We have seen all through Revelation that JESUS CHRIST, the lamb of God, the Son of God, is seated on heavenly throne--the eternal throne in New Jerusalem.

**John 16:7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper the caretaker shall not come to you;**

*but if I go*, uh oh, NASV & NIV – *if I go*. But the King James is correct here: *if I depart I go away*

*If I depart* to the father *I will send Him to you*

Future of *pempo*: JESUS CHRIST uses the word to send that emphasizes the relationship between Himself and the Holy Spirit — closely related; different yet similar!

*to you* for your advantage

***But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper the caretaker shall not come to you;***

but if I go, and I am going *I will send Him to you.*

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**John 16:8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment;**

*and when He* the demonstrative pronoun - *that one* referring to the parakletos that is Holy Spirit – one just like JESUS CHRIST only –spirit, not flesh.

*comes* Aorist Active Participle *erchomai* This is a technical reference for the Holy Spirit has always been in existence. He is God, and He was active in the restoration of the world – Gen. 1:2 and He was active all through the Old Testament; and He was here in the birth, and life and ministry of JESUS CHRIST. So, what does it mean—*when that one comes?*

This is technical and refers to the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came and indwelt the believers and that one will indwell believers all through the Church Age. The moment you believe in JESUS CHRIST. One of the 34 things that happens to you is that you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit

The action of the Aorist Participle precedes the action of the main verb—to convict. Obviously, He must come before He convicts.

When that one comes, He will convict the world

Here is something remarkable!

Here is love of the Lord in one of it's finest and most critical times.

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Convict the world. Do you see it? What has He just been talking about in reference to the world?

It must be noticed here, that the world includes the Jewish people, those who rejected Him and crucified Him. Yet, the love of JESUS CHRIST so cares for them that He will send the Holy Spirit to convict Israel, as well as Gentile unbelieving world.

The Holy Spirit will take the place of JESUS CHRIST to the disciples and all believers. JESUS CHRIST cares about the sorrow of the disciples and of all believers and did not leave us as orphans.

The Holy Spirit will take the place of JESUS CHRIST to the unbelieving world – JESUS CHRIST cares about the unbelieving world that hates Him, and hates those who follow Him. JESUS CHRIST came to be a public display of Sin, Righteousness, and Judgment. But now, He is departing. God the Holy Spirit will come and convict the world of these 3 issues.

The Holy Spirit has so many missions in His coming, to the saints, and to the unbelievers of the world and in regard to Satan himself, who is the ruler of the world, for the Holy Spirit will restrain him.

**2 Thes. 2:6-7 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is**

**already at work; only he who now restrains  
will do so until he is taken out of the way.**

So the Holy Spirit will *restrain* the world of the Anti-Christ.

But here JESUS CHRIST is occupied not only with the disciples sorrow but with the world of unbelievers for whom He is about to die.

***Will convict*** King James *reprove*

to convict, to prove one in the wrong and then to shame;

To convict or show to be in the wrong; to detect, to demonstrate, to make manifest

This word has caused a great deal of problems in the Church Age especially by John Calvin.

There are those who teach that this *irresistible conviction* of the Holy Spirit convicts only those who are elect. Election takes place before faith in JESUS CHRIST; and if you are in the elect then the Holy Spirit convicts you of these truths and His work is irresistible!

This is a good example of reading more into a word than is in that word. Many scholars, teachers and preachers are often guilty of doing this. *Saying a word means more than it does.*

**Repentance** is a good example of how people say of this word much more than it actually means.

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So here with the Greek word: *elegcho* the word does not mean that everyone who is convicted will respond positively. Just to take care of this issue in the Word:

Luke 3:19 *But when Herod the tetrarch was reprovved* this is the word we have in John 16:8 translated convicted *by him* John the Baptist *on account of Herodias, his brother's wife, and on account of all the wicked things which Herod had done,*

20 *he* Herod **added this also to them all, that he locked John up in prison.** So Herod was not convinced, did not repent or change his mind.

So the word does not mean that everyone who is convicted by the Holy Spirit will respond.

Now lets look at the word: *elegcho* since this is such an important word on the ministry of Holy Spirit. This would be a good word to start with in classical Greek to grasp it's meaning. It is a *legal term*; it meant to cross examine, to question for the purpose of disproving or reprovving, to censure, to accuse; to examine – to investigate.

So if we just go from this, lets look at the work of the Holy Spirit. There are three points at issue: Sin, Divine Righteousness, and Judgment.

The one being worked on is the world—unbelievers

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The Holy Spirit is reproofing or causing the unbelieving world to strongly consider and be convicted of three issues: Sin, Divine Righteousness and Judgment

It is translated **convict** not **convince** for not all will be convinced. The Holy Spirit is to convict the world and is to bring the world to point where the unbeliever sees the tragic condition that he is in, with the hope of causing him to turn to JESUS CHRIST to save, deliver him from his eternal fate.

To make personal conviction in the soul of each individual unbeliever of where he stands in regards to the 3 issues brought up here: Sin, Righteousness and Judgment.

Again, more Grace: first we are all under condemnation and judgment because we have all sinned and are unrighteous. But instead of right out judging us, God sent His Son, and His Spirit to convict of our condition and then turn to JESUS CHRIST...This is grace!!! Mercy!!

Why is this important? Because of the cross work of JESUS CHRIST. He will be the issue in having a relationship with God. He, God the Holy Spirit, will reveal this fact.

On the cross JESUS CHRIST publicly demonstrated the nature of sin, and of Divine Righteousness and of judgment.

Through this revelation—of the cross, the Holy Spirit will convict the world.

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He will publicly show the world of three great issues.

So because of the cross, the Holy Spirit can now convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. (John 16:8)

Now this does not mean that the HS was not convicting all through history. But because of the public demonstration by God of the cross, the HS can convict in this exact manner.

***Concerning***

King James simply of: ***of Sin, of Righteousness and of Judgment***

NIV: ***of guilt in regard to sin, Righteousness and Judgment***

NASV: ***concerning sin and Righteousness and Judgment***

The Greek preposition basically means around, as around the subject; about, concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment.

The Holy Spirit is not here to make this a better world. He is here to convict of these three issues.

When He comes He will convict the world

- of Sin
- of Righteousness
- and of Judgment

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**SIN –because they do not believe in me**

**Righteousness -because I am going to the  
Father and you will no longer see me**

**Judgement - because the ruler of this world  
has been judged**

To receive the Crown of Joy at the Judgment Seat of Christ, all you have to do is to present the truth of the gospel to unbelievers. The rest is up to the HS.