

THE BELIEVER'S CROWN

REVELATION 4:4,9-11

In our last study we saw that the twenty-four elders in Revelation 4 represent the church of Jesus Christ in heaven following the rapture of the church. Tonight we want to notice the crowns they are wearing and what they do with those crowns.

I. THE NATURE OF THE CROWNS.

A. The Type of Crown Promised.

1. The word (*stephanos*) denotes a victor's crown at athletic contests.
2. A symbol of accomplishment.
3. A symbol of recognition. Matt. 25:21,23.

B. The Specific Crowns Mentioned.

1. The incorruptible crown. 1 Cor. 9:25.
2. The crown of righteousness. 2 Tim. 4:8.
3. The crown of life. James 1:12; Rev. 2:10.
4. The crown of rejoicing. 1 Thess. 2:19.
5. The crown of glory. 1 Peter 5:4.

II. THE BASIS FOR THE CROWNS.

A. The Faithfulness of Our Service. 1 Cor. 4:2.

1. Faithful to serve consistently and persistently.
2. Faithful to use what God has entrusted to us for the advancement of his kingdom.

B. The Quantity of Our Service. John 15:8; Matt. 10:42; Heb. 6:10.

* Have I used my God-given talents, resources and opportunities to the fullest extent? Luke 12:48. *

C. The Quality of Our Service. 1 Cor. 3:13.

* What we do for the Lord should be our best. Mal. 1:12-13. *

D. The Method of Our Service. 1 Chron. 15:13.

* It is important that we do God's work in God's way following the instructions of Scripture. *

III. THE PRESENTATION OF THE CROWNS.

A. The Presentation at Christ's Coming. 1 Thess. 2:19; 2 Tim. 4:8.

* Crowns are not given until the coming of Christ for we do not know the full results of our labor until Christ's work is completed on earth. Our works will live on until then. Rev. 14:13. *

B. The Presentation by Jesus Christ. 2 Tim. 4:8.

* Imagine hearing his words of affirmation and receiving an award from him. *

C. The Presentation by the Church. Rev. 4:10,11.

1. The proclamation of praise.
2. The presentation of the crowns.

Looking forward to that day should encourage us (1 Cor. 15:58) and motivate us to be faithful until he comes (Rev. 3:11; 22:12; 2 John 8).

