

Earning Eternal Crowns

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Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. (Revelation 3:11, KJV).

I. Introduction - Greek Definitions

See Definition for diadema 1238

See Definition for stephanos 4735

1238 - is a crown as a badge of royalty

4735 - like the Latin "corona" is the crown in the sense of a

chaplet, wreath or garland -- the badge of "victory in the games of civic worth, of military valour, of nuptial joy, of festive gladness"

4735 stefanov stephanos {stef'-an-os} from an apparently primary stepho (to twine or wreath); TDNT - 7:615,1078; n m

AV - crown 18; 18

1) a crown

1a) a mark of royal or (in general) exalted rank

1a1) the wreath or garland which was given as a prize to victors in public games

1b) metaph. the eternal blessedness which will be given as a prize to the genuine servants of God and Christ: the crown (wreath) which is the reward of the righteousness

1c) that which is an ornament and honour to one

1238 diadema diadema {dee-ad'-ay-mah} from a compound of 1223 and 1210;; n n

AV - crown 3; 3

1) a diadem

1a) a blue band marked with white which Persian kings used to bind on the turban or tiara 1b) the kingly ornament for the head, the crown

All of the crowns which can be earned by believers are the greek word stephanos, not diadema. Whether or not these crowns will be worn on our heads is not absolutely clear. They may be wreaths, marks, ornaments, or some sort of prize instead of a literal crown worn on the head. However, we see that a "stephanos" CAN be worn on the head in the following two scriptures:

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown [4735 stephanos] of twelve stars: (Revelation 12:1, KJV).

And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown [4735 stephanos], and in his hand a sharp sickle. (Revelation 14:14, KJV).

The above scriptures are not about OUR crowns, but they do show that a "stephanos" can be worn on the head.

If the twenty four elders are representative of believers, as most theologians agree, then some of our crowns will indeed will be worn on our head and we will often fall down before God in worship and cast those very same crowns before the throne.

And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. (Revelation 4:4, KJV).

The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying... (Revelation 4:10, KJV).

In the Book of Revelation, only Jesus and governmental leaders are shown wearing "diademas." Jesus:

His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. (Revelation 19:12, KJV).

The MOST IMPORTANT thing to learn in this study guide, however, is not exactly what the crowns look like or where they are worn, but HOW THEY MAY BE EARNED IN THIS LIFE FOR THE ETERNITY TO COME.

II. THE FIRST CROWN is The Crown Of Righteousness:

*But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. (2 Timothy 4:5-8, KJV).*

YOUR FEEDBACK - The Crown Of Righteousness Is Awarded In Eternity For: (Describe in your own best words from the above scripture how this eternal crown is earned:)

III. The SECOND CROWN is The Crown Of Life:

*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the **crown of life**, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. (James 1:12, KJV).*

*I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a **crown of life**. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. (Revelation 2:9-11, KJV).*

YOUR FEEDBACK - The Crown Of Life Is Awarded In Eternity For: (Describe in your own best words from the above scripture how this eternal crown is earned:)

IV. THE THIRD CROWN is The Crown Of Glory:

*The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a **crown of glory** that fadeth not away. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. (1 Peter 5:1-5, KJV).*

YOUR FEEDBACK - The Crown Of Glory Is Awarded In Eternity For: (Describe in your own best words from the above scripture how this eternal crown is earned:)

V. THE FOURTH CROWN is The Imperishable Crown:

(KJV: Incorruptible Crown)

(Also called the "crown of rejoicing")

1Co 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they [do it] to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

1Th 2:19 For what [is] our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? [Are] not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

*For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel. For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you. 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. 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**. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. (1 Corinthians 9:16-27, NKJV).*

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans, who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men, forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost. But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see

*your face with great desire. Therefore we wanted to come to you--even I, Paul, time and again--but Satan hindered us. For what is our hope, or joy, or **crown of rejoicing**? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy. (1 Thessalonians 2:13-20, NKJV).*

YOUR FEEDBACK - The Imperishable Crown Is Awarded In Eternity For: (Describe in your own best words from the above scripture how this eternal crown is earned:)

THINK ABOUT IT... Jesus wore a shameful crown of thorns on the cross so that you and I might wear golden crowns of incorruption, life, glory, and righteousness in the next life.

THINK ABOUT IT... Earning eternal crowns as a reward for your obedient living here on earth is worth it, if for no other reason than to have something to cast before His throne in worship!