

Victor's Crowns Christians Are Encouraged to Earn

- I. Why Christians are exhorted to earn crowns.
 1. The difference between a victor's crown and a diadem.
 2. The exhortation to earn a crown in 1 Cor. 9:24: “. . . **so be running** (*imperative*) **in order that you might grasp the prize.**”
 3. The knowledge that you have a crown coming: 2 Tim. 4:8 “. . . **there is presently laid away** (*stored up*) **for me the crown of the righteousness . . .**”
 4. In the future the crowns of gold are seen on the heads of the 24 elders (who represent the church) then throw the crowns at the Savior's feet (Rev. 4:4, 10-11).

- II. Victor's Crowns Reveled in the New Testament.
 1. Leading someone to the Lord (Phil. 4:1 *cf.* 1:3-5; 1 Thess. 2:19).
 2. The Crown of Life—overcoming a specific temptation.
 - 1) Endure under—show consistency.
 - 2) Placing a value on Eternal Life over physical life.
 - 3) A specific test tailored to each Christian (Jam. 1:12; 1 Cor. 10:13).
 - 4) Faithful until the point of death (Rev. 2:10).
 3. Bring under control bodily appetites that would interfere with one's ministry (1 Cor. 9:25-27).
 4. Righteousness—having loved His appearance (2 Tim. 4:8).
 5. Pastor also Teacher (Eph. 4:11 Peter 5:2-4, Heb. 13:7, 17; Acts 20:28).
 - 1) Feeds flock.
 - 2) Serves voluntarily, eagerly (*cf.* 1 Tim. 3:1).
 - 3) Not after money/numbers.
 - 4) Not a dictator—not lording it over the flock.
 - 5) Lives a spiritual life as an example to the flock.

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