

### **The Victors' Crowns**

- I.** The victor's crown significance.
  1. The difference between two crowns: victor's and ruling.
  2. Signifies defeating opponent: games, war.
  3. Rewards human response to divine enabling.
- II.** The sequence of events called the Rapture.
- III.** Next the crowns are awarded.
  1. After entry into the Third Heaven.
  2. After the presentations at the Throne?
  3. The crowns are gold (Rev. 4:40).
  4. The crowns are given and worn.
  5. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, there is no mention of those there keeping the gold, silver, and precious stones. Why would they keep these items?
  6. The crowns are in the Third Heaven (2 Tim. 4:8).
- IV.** The Crown of Bodily Self-Control (1 Cor. 9:24-27).
  1. Christians should want to earn crowns: the race.
  2. Christian should be goal oriented.
  3. This is self-control over one's body so that its desires or "needs" do not interfere with Christian service.
  4. 1 Corinthians 9:27  
But I beat my body black and blue and lead it as a slave lest somehow, I should come to disqualify myself (*from receiving this crown*).
- V.** Examples of Paul bringing his body into subjection (2 Cor. 11:23-33).
  1. Faced the process of death often.
  2. Was put in prisons numerous times.
  3. Five times was beat with leather whips.
  4. Three times was beat with wood rods.
  5. Once was stoned.
  6. Three times was shipwrecked.
  7. Was in the sea about 24 hours.
  8. His body was abused other multiple ways.
  9. He escaped arrest.
  10. Though all this physical persecution, Paul used his body as a slave to fulfill his ministry: preach the word.