

The Victors' Crowns

A head wreath

- I.** Christians are to live the Christian life as though running to win a race (1 Cor. 9:24).
1. To win takes training (1 Cor. 9:25-27; 1 Tim. 4:7-8; Heb. 5:14).
 2. To win takes knowledge of the prize.
 3. Hence the Crown of self-control is not allowing the body's desires to interfere with Christian service.
 4. These crowns are apparently awarded after the church enters into the Third Heaven.
- II.** The Crown of Life (Jam. 1:12; Rev. 2:10).
1. James 1:12.
 - 1) Seems to be one specific temptation: "come to be approved" (at a point in time).
 - 2) Each individual Christian has a different area of weakness.
 - 3) Seems to indicate victory over a specific troubling temptation in one's life.
 - 4) The temptation is "born under" until approved.
 - 5) The incentive for the Christian to bear up under the temptation is because he/she loves the Lord--Christ.
 2. Revelation 2:10.
 - 1) Those at Smyrna were facing extreme persecution over a duration of time.
 - 2) The temptation would have been to recant their faith.
 - 3) If they were faithful up to the point of death they would receive the Crown of Life.
- III.** What does the Crown of Life represent?
1. Physical life? No, since that is what they were going to lose. (1 Tim. 5:6).
 2. Resurrection life? Not directly since that would be the means to the end, not the end (Rom. 6:13).
 3. Eternal life? Yes. That relationship with God when seen through a human is godliness (1 Tim. 3:16; 1 Jn. 5:11-13; Gal. 6:8).
 4. This crown seems to award those who overcome temptation in their weakest area.