

The Victors' Crowns The Crown of Righteousness

- I.** Christians are to strive to win victor's crowns and can have knowledge of crowns they have won (1 Cor. 9:24-27).
 1. The Crown of bodily self-control (1 Cor. 9:25-27).
 2. The Crown of Life (Jam. 1:12; Rev. 2:10).
 3. The Crown of leading someone to the Lord (1 Thes. 2:19).
 4. The Crown of glory, a qualified bishop who is not a dictator (1 Pet. 5:1-4).
- II.** The Crown characterized by righteousness (2 Tim. 2:8).
 1. Given to "all having loved His appearance."
 2. Is laid away.
 3. Shall give.
 4. Having in the past loved.
 5. Appearance—to saints.
 6. Anticipating the Rapture affects our behavior in the present (Rom. 8:18).
- III.** The distinction between watching and eagerly expecting.
 1. Watch as for a thief in the night—uninvited calamity (Mt. 24:42-44).
 2. Eagerly expecting something that brings contentment (1 Thes. 1:10).
- IV.** Eagerly anticipating the Rapture; several words are used to describe a spiritual attitude toward the Rapture.
 1. **Await eagerly**, literally *take in hand from* (Rom. 8: 19, 23, 25; Phil. 3:20; Heb. 9:28).
 2. **Earnestly expect**, literally *facing toward and taking in hand for benefits* (Tit. 2:13 *cf.* Lu. 2:25).
 3. **Waiting for the expected outcome**, literally *that which comes out from taking to hand* (Jam. 5:7).
- V.** The Crown of righteousness will be rewarded to Christians who, in view of an anticipation of the Rapture practice the New Commandment: are loving.