

1. Last week I taught in part 2Ti 4:6-8 by way of the *Doctrine of Crowns* and when the clock tolled 11:45 we were about to teach the etymology of the Greek word **Stephanos**.
2. Before we begin that study, I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may or may not be necessary.
3. For a written and/or audio copy of this lesson please go to *westbankbiblechurch.com* and click-on streaming audio of services.
4. I want to review some of that learned last week and then begin new material on page three.

Review

5. Now we are ready for 2Ti 4:6-8.

NIV

2Ti 4:6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2Ti 4:8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day -- and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Doctrine of Crowns

Introduction

1. At the judgment seat of Christ, or the **Bema** crowns will be awarded.
 - 1.1 The **Bema** was a place where a king, judge or procurator might sit to adjudicate a matter or reward an outstanding athlete or military hero. It is from the **Bema** that the judge would issue punishments or rewards.
 - 1.2 It was at the **Bema**, during the Isthmus Games, that a winning contestant received his special reward called a **Stephanos**.
 - 1.2.1 It is to this analogy the New Testament speaks when it describes Church Age believers appearing before the **judgment seat** of Christ.

Rom 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before the **judgment seat** of Christ.

2Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the **judgment seat** of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

1.3 The word **Bema** appears several places in the New Testament.

1.3.1 Jesus was brought before Pilate's **Bema**. Mat 27:19; Joh 19:13

1.3.2 Herod Agrippa made his final speech from a **Bema**. Acts 12:21-24.

1.3.3 The governor of Achaia, judged Paul from a **Bema**. Acts 18:12-16

1.3.4 Paul was brought before a **Bema** (the judgment seat of Festus) on his way to Rome. The year was c. A.D. 58. Acts 25:1-12

2. Paul describes the events taking place at the **Bema**, where crowns are awarded. 1Co 3:11-15.

3. The word for crown in the New Testament is **Stephanos**. The **Stephanos** in ancient Rome was a wreath given to both athletes and military heroes who had distinguished themselves.

3.1 With it went a large monetary stipend, a parade honoring the recipient, a significant land grant and a lifetime exemption from taxation for self and family.

3.1.1 Your right pastor-teacher will be with you at the **Bema**, for it is his evaluation too. Phi 4:1; 1Th 2:19-20

1Th 2:19 For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?

1Th 2:20 Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

3.2 We are now ready to study the etymology of **Stephanos**.

Etymology - Stephanos

1. The word **Stephanos** appears variously in Scripture. For example, it is used:

to describe Jesus' crown of thorns;

Mat 27:29 And when they had platted a "**crown**" of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

to describe a corruptible crown;

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.

to describe Paul's brothers in Christ;

Phi 4:1 Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and "**crown**", that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

1Th 2:19 For what is our hope, our joy, or the "**crown**" in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?

to describe Paul's future crown of righteousness;

2Ti 4:8 Now there is in store for me the "**crown**" of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

to describe the crown of life for those who are tested;

Jam 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the "**crown**" of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Rev 2:10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the "**crown**" of life.

Footnote: The church at Smyrna represents the universal church (100-300)

to describe the crown of glory when Christ returns;

1Pe 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the "**crown**" of glory that will never fade away.

to describe the potential of losing a crown just before the Rapture;

Rev 3:11 I am coming soon to you, the church at Philadelphia - the church just before the rapture. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your "**crown**".

the church resident in heaven--casting their **crowns** of gold before the throne of God;

Rev 4:4 Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had "**crowns**" of gold on their heads.

Footnote: The elders represent the church in their uniforms of glory proudly wearing their crowns of gold.

Rev 4:10 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,

Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

to describe a **crown** of power given the AntiChrist;

Rev 6:2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a "**crown**" was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

to describe **crowns** given demon warriors;

Rev 9:7 The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like "**crowns**" of gold, and their faces resembled human faces.

Rev 9:8 Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

to Israel divided into twelve tribes;

Rev 12:1 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**" of twelve stars: the royalty of Jesus just before He returns.

Rev 14:14 I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a "**crown**" of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

2. In addition to the crowns awarded for divine good, there are special crowns awarded to believers of the Church Age;

to describe a **crown** of righteousness;

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2Ti 4:8 Now there is in store for me the **crown** of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

2.1 The crown of righteousness is mentioned only once in Scripture where Paul speaks of his acquiring it because he anticipates his death at the hand of Nero.

2.2 Col. R. B. Thieme says of this crown, "It would seem to be available to those who have acquired enough doctrine to appreciate and anticipate the Rapture and the blessed events following."

to describe a crown of life;

Rev 2:10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the **crown** of life.

2.3 The crown of life is available to all believers who not only reach maturity but are able to hold that level even amid significant pressures.

2.4 There are those who see this crown as available only to believers of the Tribulation. This, however, flies in the face of the fact that in every age, believers are deluged with pressure and testing from old Satan under the permissive will of God.

2.5 Its appropriateness for believers in all ages would seem to be strengthened by the fact that James mentions the crown of life.

Jam 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the **crown of life** that God has promised to those who love him.

to describe a crown of glory.

2.6 The crown of glory is available only to the pastor-teacher who is faithful to the task of studying and teaching, both when it is convenient and when it is not convenient.

1Pe 5:2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;

1Pe 5:3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

1Pe 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the **crown** of glory that will never fade away.

3. Fittingly, in our new natures we are seen in heaven casting our crowns at the feet of Christ.

Rev 4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives forever and ever. They lay their **crowns** before the throne and say:

Rev 4:11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

4. Now we are ready to close out the study of Second Timothy. I think it appropriate to review the *Doctrine of Dying Grace*.

Dying Grace

1. This describes that time when we move from time to eternity in the greatest of all possible happiness.

2. Our death is God's sovereign decision. His timing is absolutely perfect.

Psa 68:19 Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior Who daily bears our burdens.

Psa 68:20 Our God is the God Who saves; from the sovereign Lord comes deliverance from death."

3. There is what we call the sin unto death. It is reserved for the habitual “reversionist.” See Doctrine of Healing for explanation.

4. Dying grace is only for the mature believer.

5. In God’s eyes precious is the death of His saints.

Psa 33:18 But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,

Psa 33:19 to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.

Psa 33:20 We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

Psa 33:21 In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

Psa 33:22 May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

Psa 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

6. Dying grace is the golden bridge from time to eternity.

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith having not received the promises, but having seen them afar off and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”

7. In summary, grace is God’s genius for dealing with man in order to provide all God has determined in His divine decrees after having seen the beginning and the end and all that transpired in the interim.

8. Grace is all that God is free to do for mankind on the basis of the cross without in any way compromising His character; it is God’s plan for mankind. There is of course more than one definition of grace. For example:

8.1 Grace is all that God is free to do for you and for me on the basis of the cross without in any way compromising His integrity.

9. Without Christ there is no grace because He is the only object of faith capable of producing salvation and our justification.

10. Verses nine through twenty-two represent a conclusion.

KJV

2Ti 4:9 Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:

2Ti 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

Footnote: See the potential connection between Demas and 2nd Thessalonians chapter two verses 1-10.

2Ti 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Footnote: See the Doctrine of Paul and his preparations for the 2nd Missionary Journey, particularly Paul's argument with Barnabas over taking Paul on the journey.

We do not authorize any third party to solicit donations on behalf of the Westbank Bible Church.