

1. Last week I taught in part 2Ti 4:3-5 by way of the *Doctrine of False Communicators*.
2. Before we continue 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 where we were finishing-up the study of false teachers.

NIV

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

2Ti 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

2Ti 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Review

5. There were numerous false communicators actively resisting our Lord during the Kingdom Age. They were primarily the religious hierarchy, consisting of the Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees. Mat 15:1-3 and 16:1-4
6. There have been and still are numerous false teachers abounding in the Church Age. There were false teachers in Corinth teaching there was no bodily resurrection. 1Co 15:14-16; 2Co 11:1-28
7. There were false teachers at Antioch and Jerusalem who mixed Judaism and Christianity. Heb 3:5-9; 4:8-16; 5:11-14; Acts 15:1-11
 - 7.1 There were false teachers teaching that the church would go through the tribulation; they seem to abound in Thessalonica. 2Th 2:1-12
 - 7.2 There were false teachers who tried to put church age saints back under the Mosaic law. 1Ti 1:3-11

7.3 There are false teachers who it would seem, love to obfuscate the truth with speculation which at least in part contradicts the Scriptures; they love to wax eloquent with reference to "knowledge, science, etc." 1Ti 6:20-21

7.4 False teachers in every age, pervasively will abound in various forms; spanning the gamut from do-gooder legalist to antinomian despisers of morality. 2Ti 3:1-13

7.5 Paul says on the island of **Crete** there are false teachers who love to speak of the merits of the law, discoursing on genealogies, endless contentions and pontifications. Paul urges Titus to confront these false communicators and to protect the congregates by urging pastors to teach sound doctrine. Tit 1:10-14; 3:9-10

7.6 Peter warns against the perils of false teachers in 2Pe 2:1-3.

7.7 John in 1Jo 2:18-19 warns against false teachers much in the same way as Peter.

7.8 In 1Jo 2:22-23 we have a warning that "little antichrists" abound who deny the Father and the Son.

8. The judgment of false teachers is said to be a certainty. 2Pe 3:1-9

9. The characteristics of the false teachers are enumerated by Peter. Their fleshly self-indulgence and rejection of authority is recounted. 2Pe 2:10-12

10. Their perversion of Christianity is warned against in 2Pe 2:13.

11. Their moral instability is described in 2Pe 2:14.

12. Their selfish motivation is described as being similar to Balaam. False teachers are often motivated by approbation, prestige and monetary gain. 2Pe 2:15; 20-22

13. False teachers should surprise none of us given the fact the Scriptures tell us Satan is capable of becoming a minister of light just as are his ministers. Pastors need to document what they teach and avoid teaching what is not in the Scripture.

14. There were in Philippi false teachers both in substance and motivation. Phi 1:14-18

15. Let's look at one other infamous companion of Paul's day who most likely was also a false teacher - Demas.

16. Demas is mentioned three times in the New Testament. Col 4:14; 2Ti 4:10; Phm 24

Col 4:14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

17. Demas may be a shortened form of Demetrius. He was a believer, and was evidently with Paul when he wrote Colossians and Philemon.

Phm 24 Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellow laborers.

17.1 Later, when writing Second Timothy, Paul pens the dismal fact that Demas had forsaken him, "having loved this present world."

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

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

KJV

2Ti 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

2Ti 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

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.

1. I think the best way to teach these verses is to review the *Doctrine of Crowns*.

Doctrine of Crowns

Introduction

1. At the judgment seat of Christ, or the **Bema** (as it is called in the Greek), 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 When he was set down on the "**judgment seat**", his wife sent unto him, saying, have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

Joh 19:13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the "**judgment seat**" in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.

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

Acts 12:21 On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people.

Acts 12:22 They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man."

Acts 12:23 Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

Acts 12:24 But the word of God continued to increase and spread.

1.3.3 Gallio, the governor of Achaia, judged Paul from a **Bema**.

Act 18:12 While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him into court.

Act 18:13 "This man," they charged, "is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law."

Act 18:14 Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, "If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you.

Act 18:15 But since it involves questions about words and names and your own law -- settle the matter yourselves. I will not be a judge of such things."

Acts 18:16 And he drove them from the "**judgment seat**."

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. Paul spent three years in Caesarea Syria and another three years in Rome. Let's take a look at the context of Acts 25:1-

Acts 25:1 Three days after arriving in the province, Festus went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem,

Acts 25:2 where the chief priests and Jewish leaders appeared before him and presented the charges against Paul.

Acts 25:3 They urgently requested Festus, as a favor to them, to have Paul transferred to Jerusalem, for they were preparing an ambush to kill him along the way.

Acts 25:4 Festus answered, "Paul is being held at Caesarea, and I myself am going there soon.

Acts 25:5 Let some of your leaders come with me and press charges against the man there, if he has done anything wrong."

Acts 25:6 After spending eight or ten days with them, he went down to Caesarea, and the next day he convened **the court** and ordered that Paul be brought before him.

Acts 25:7 When Paul appeared, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many serious charges against him, which they could not prove.

Acts 25:8 Then Paul made his defense: "I have done nothing wrong against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar."

Acts 25:9 Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, "Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and stand trial before me there on these charges?"

Acts 25:10 Paul answered: "I am now standing before Caesar's **court**, where I ought to be tried. I have not done any wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well.

Acts 25:11 If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!"

Acts 25:12 After Festus had conferred with his council, he declared: "You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!"

Definition and Concept

1. Let's look at crowns as they relate to the judgment seat of Christ. The judgment is for believers of the Church Age. It takes place after the Rapture. The judgment seat is called the **Bema**.

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

1Co 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1Co 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

1Co 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

1Co 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

1Co 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

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 (much like a ticker-tape parade for the team winning the World Series), a significant land grant such as 1000 acres on the Brazos between Waco and Bryan 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 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?

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

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