

Title: Crown — The Crown Of Righteousness

Text: 2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NKJV)

Introduction:

Last week we talked about the Imperishable Crown that will be given to those who not only run but finish the race. Today our focus is on the Crown of Righteousness which according to Paul will be given “*to all who have loved His appearing.*” In his last words recorded in vv6-8 Paul examined his life from 3 perspectives —

I. A Present Reality — “I Am”

“*For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand*” (2 Timothy 4:6 NKJV). Paul described death for the believer in 2 ways —

A. Paul Described Death As A _____

B. Paul Described Death As A _____

Paul used a Greek word that has 4 different meanings —

- 1) It was used for untying an animal from a plow = the _____ is _____
- 2) It was used for releasing the bonds of a prisoner = the _____ is _____
- 3) It was used for striking the ropes of a tent = it’s _____ to _____
- 4) It was used for loosening a ship from its moorings = a _____ has _____

II. A Past Reflection — “I Have”

“*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith*” (2 Timothy 4:7 NKJV).

All three phrases “have fought...have finished...have kept” indicate a completed action that has continuing results. Paul knew his efforts for the Lord would not only continue to _____ good things on earth, but would _____ a great reward in heaven.

III. A Future Reward — “The Lord Will”

“*Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing*” (2 Timothy 4:8 NKJV).

OBSERVATIONS —

- 1) The crown is _____ for us
- 2) It's the crown of _____
- 3) The crown will be given on “_____”
- 4) The crown is given to all who have _____ Christ's appearing

Summary: No writer of Scripture emphasized more forcefully _____.
No writer of Scripture anticipated more joyfully _____. Having been saved by grace, follow Paul's example and “*press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus*” (Phil. 3:14 NKJV).