

Much of this tract is commentary - don't take it as Gospel. It is here to encourage meditation and study. Use your gift of discernment, to find the truth.



Glen Miller



Crowns

Paul's crown of joy (Php 4:1) which is the brethren at the church in Philippi.

The crown of rejoicing that Paul will have when the Thessalonian brethren are in the presence of Jeus Christ at his coming. (1 Th 2:19).

The crown of righteousness that is laid up for Paul, and which the Lord will give him "at that day" (the day of his death).

The crown of life given to a man on the day he is tried. (Jas 1:12).

A crown of Glory which fades not, which a man will receive when the Chief Shepherd shall appear (1 Pe 5:4).

The crown awarded by God to those who were faithful until death and who the Devil put into prison for ten days of trial and tribulation (Rev 2:10).

The Prize - A Crown of Life

It is well to understand the meaning of the verses, and understanding grows faith, but faith without works is dead ^A. So any new spiritual truth that you discover must be put into action; this is "doing theology".

So let's look at this instruction from Paul to his troublesome group of Corinthians who, though mostly Torah followers ^C, have adopted some Greek ways.

He introduces the idea of "the prize" ^B and he describes it as an incorruptible crown, which they are to be awarded by winning a "race".

If you read the references on the left you will see that "crowns" are to be given for different reasons. Paul will win the "crown of joy", and "crown of rejoicing", and the "crown of righteousness". He says that all brethren could receive several crowns: the "crown of righteousness" upon the day of their death; the "crown of life" upon passing the trial on judgment day; a "crown of glory" when Christ appears, and some even get a special 'purple-heart crown', for perseverance under the trial and tribulation of the Devil. But crowns will only be awarded to those who win their race. And the race is not against other men, it is against the sinfulness that is in themselves.

Paul tells them that to win the race and obtain an incorruptible crown, they must master their body' (subject it to discipline), and they must be ready to fight against evil - and so they must be temperate in all things. [In the next chapter Paul lists those sins that will disqualify them: lusting after evil things, idolatry, fornication, tempting Christ, murmuring.]

Paul says: I do the same, fighting with confidence but not boasting, punishing my body ^D and making it my slave, so that I might not become one of those disqualified.

^A James 2:20 and 2:26, Bishops of the C of E, Homily on salvation/justification - Cranmer, (see also Christmas II B)

^B He calls this prize, in his letter to the Philippians 3:14 **the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

^C Most of the converts were from among the displaced semites who were expecting a Messiah. (also see 5:1 re: comparison with pagans, and 1:22 re: Greeks and Jews).

^D literally, "I give my body a black eye"

(1 Corinthians 10:6-10)
6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were **destroyed** of serpents.

10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were **destroyed** of the **destroyer**. (see following)

Ex 12:23 ...the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer **the destroyer** to come in unto your houses to smite you. (also Job 15:21).

(Philippians 3:14)
14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

(2 Timothy 4:7, 8)
7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

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.



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Epistle 1 Co 9:24-27

The Prize - A Crown of Life
1 Corinthians 9:24-27



Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 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.

²⁶I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

²⁷ But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

NRSV for comparison. ("crown" replaced by "wreath")

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it.

²⁵ Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable **wreath**, but we an imperishable one.

²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air;

²⁷ but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.

The NRSV says that we are to run a race for an incorruptible wreath (plastic perhaps? - made for a permanent grave). Not much incentive to race for this, is there? In the NRSV, RSV, REB, avoiding the word "crown" removes the key word that triggers our search for other references to crown, and hence to a deeper understanding. If you look, however, for another reference to "wreath"; there is none. What does the OT say?

*"at the mouth of **two witnesses**, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established."* (Deut 19:15)

Well there is in the RSV etc. only one witness to "wreath". So, "hey, ho", it's back to the KJV we go.

More Insight

What does this mean for us?

First: if you are righteous until the day you die, you will receive a “crown of righteousness” which God has laid up for you. This is probably the entrance pass to the last marriage. Perhaps this is your “wedding garments” for the marriage, which you receive from God, which means you are among the chosen and finally “in”.

Second: when Christ arrives in his Glory [and you are then resurrected], you will receive “a “crown of Glory” which never fades - the victors laurels for winning the race? A halo perhaps?

Third: after you are tried on judgment day, and you are found worthy, you will receive your incorruptible “crown of life” - immortality?

Yes, it’s all a bit mysterious, isn’t it?

Well, what to do? Running the race is all about keeping an eye on the final mark that God has set for us, not being sidetracked from the activities that lead us on to “perfection”, pleasing God all the time, being virtuous and doing good works.

The next two pages are all about good works. You need to understand what is the meaning of good works. Good works are the fruit of our virtues (listed on p.3).

Origen, (c. A.D. 250) perhaps the greatest theologian ever, said that unless we have all the virtues of Christ, we do not have Christ in us, because Christ and virtue are synonymous.

On the last page is a list of the seven gifts that we are offered by God to help us win our race.

As He has your “wedding garments” - see Proper 23 “The Last Marriage” Mt 22:1-14].

You will feast with the other Christians until Christ arrives on the scene.

Good Works

References to Good Works

Ro 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to **good works**, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is **good**, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto **good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

1 Ti 2:10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with **good works**.

1 Ti 5:10 Well reported of for **good works**; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints’ feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every **good work**.

1 Ti 5:25 Likewise also the **good works** of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.

1 Ti 6:18 That they do **good**, that they be rich in **good works**, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

2 Ti 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all **good works**.

Tit 1:16 They profess that they know God; but in **works** they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every **good work** reprobate.

Tit 2:7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of **good works**: in doctrine *shewing* uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of **good works**.

Tit 3:8 *This is a faithful saying*, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain **good works**. These things are **good** and profitable unto men.

Tit 3:14 And let ours also learn to maintain **good works** for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to **good works**:

Jas 3:13 Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a **good** conversation his **works** with meekness of wisdom.

1 PE 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* **good works**, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

ISBN

Idioms in the Bible Explained	Lamsa, George M.	Harper Collins	0-06-064927-5
Jewish New Testament Commentary	David Stern	Jewish New Testament	965-359-008-1
The Son of Man or contributions to the	Abbot, Edwin A.	Cambridge	

Good Works

Jesus said that his **disciples** must be like this :

And so: disciples must teach people to

be poor in spirit;	be kind to brothers;
be patient;	be forgiving;
hold no grudges;	be knowledgeable of God;
be wise in teaching;	be humble;
be modest;	be gentle;
be discrete;	be mournful;
be meek; (no anger)	be merciful;
be pure in heart;	be peacemakers;
be not rich;	be sober;
be moderate;	be not rude;
be not proud;	be not pompous;
be not irritable;	be godly;
be charitable;	have faith;
have hope of all things;	believe all things;
do the will of God;	persevere to the end;
be sincere;	be grave;
be obedient;	

And disciples should:

Obey the commandments
 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.
 Heal sickness and disease
 Cast out unclean spirits
 Exhort them to continue in the faith - (go to church, and learn)
 Help them endure temptation
 Eat bread with the brethren, give cold water to proselytes
 Understand the mysteries
 Rejoice with them when they discover the truth
 Don't overstay their welcome
 Make Supplication Prayer
 Make Intercessory prayer
 Women raise children
 Preach from housetops
 Be a peculiar people
 Women lodge strangers, men welcome strangers
 Nurse the sick brethren
 Clothe the naked brethren, visit brothers in prison
 Feed the Hungry brethren. Give the thirsty brethren drink.

How the Disciples behaved

Luke 12:22

“22 And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, **Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.**”

Luke 14:26

“26 **If any man come to me, and “hate”** [Be prepared to leave them behind- see 14:33] **not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.**”

Luke 14:27

“27 **And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.**”

Luke 14:33

“33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that **forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.**”

Luke 17:3, 4

“3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, **rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.**

4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; **thou shalt forgive him.**”

Luke 17:10

“10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, **We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.**”

John 3:22

“22 After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and **baptized.**”

John 8:31

“31 **Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;**”

Acts 6:2

“2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, **It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.**”



Good Works

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“2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, **It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.**”

Acts 6:4

“4 But we will **give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.**”

Acts 9:36

“36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was **full of good works and almsdeeds** which she did. {Dorcas: or, Doe, or, Roe}”

(1 Th 4:3-6) For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should **abstain from fornication**: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That **no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter**: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

(1 Th 4:11) And that **ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands**, as we commanded you;

(1 Th 5:6) Therefore **let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.**

(1 Th 5:11) Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and **edify one another**, even as also ye do.

(1 Th 5:14-22) Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, **comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men**. See that **none render evil for evil unto any man**; but ever **follow that which is good**, both among yourselves, and to all men.

Rejoice evermore. **Pray without ceasing**. In every thing **give thanks**: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. **Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.**

(2 Th 3:10) For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, **that if any would not work, neither should he eat.**

(1 Jo 2:15) **Love not the world**, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Amori Christi et Ecclesiae –
Glen C. Miller OSV

The Gifts we are offered upon confirmation

Confirmation among us is always ministered by a bishop in person, with prayer for the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah xi. 3). The prayer is followed by solemn imposition of hands and blessing.

BLXX Isaiah 11:2, 3

“2 and the Spirit of God shall rest upon him, the spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**, the spirit of **counsel** and **strength**, the spirit of **knowledge** and **godliness** shall fill him;
3 the spirit of the **fear of God**. He shall not judge according to appearance, nor reprove according to report:”

KJV Isaiah 11:2

“2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**, the spirit of **counsel** and **might**, the spirit of **knowledge** and of the **fear of the LORD;**”

This list of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are from the Septuagint - Brenton translation. 4151. For some reason the Hebrew OT translation in the KJV and others lists six gifts only - (Godliness is missing).

BCP1928 P 291 - The Church provides the Laying on of Hands, or Confirmation, wherein, after renewing the promises and vows of my Baptism, and declaring my loyalty and devotion to Christ as my Master, I receive the strengthening gifts of the Holy Spirit.

For those about to be Confirmed.

O GOD, who through the teaching of thy Son Jesus Christ didst prepare the disciples for the coming of the Comforter; Make ready, we beseech thee, the hearts and minds of thy servants who at this time are seeking to be **strengthened by the gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands**, that, drawing near with penitent and faithful hearts, they may evermore be filled with the power of his divine indwelling; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Recommended Books

ISBN

God's Secretaries - The making of the King James Bible	Nicolson, Adam	HarperCollins	0-06-018516-3
Idioms in the Bible Explained	Lamsa, George M.	Harper Collins	0-06-064927-5
Jewish New Testament Commentary	David Stern	Jewish New	965-359-008-1
The Son of Man or contributions to the study of the	Abbot, Edwin A.	Cambridge	