

# A CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

## INTRODUCTION

- I. There are 2 Greek words in the New Testament that are translated “crown” in English.
  - A. 1<sup>st</sup>, the word *diadim*, which is found only 3 times in the New Testament, all in the book of Revelation where figurative language is abundantly used, and it is applied to the Lord only one of these 3 times.
  - B. 2<sup>nd</sup>, there is the word *stephanos*.
    1. It is used several times by the “gospel writers” to describe the crown of thorns placed on the head of Jesus by His enemies (Matt. 27:29; Mark 15:17; John 19:2, 5).
    2. Then, it is used to describe something relative to the “reward” for the righteous (1 Cor. 9:25; Jas. 1:15; 1 Pet. 5:4; 2 Tim. 4:8).
- II. In this last passage, the term “crown of righteousness” is used for the only one time in the N.T., which we shall consider at this time.
  - A. Before Paul refers TO the crown, he alludes to his **present**, and then to the **past**, in anticipation OF the crown in the **future**.
  - B. In this lesson we shall examine the **past**, **present** and **future** of Paul’s revelation about the “crown of life.”

## DISCUSSION

### I. 1<sup>st</sup>, PAUL’S ANTICIPATION OF THE CROWN.

- A. He states that he is “now” (present tense) “ready to be offered”, which is a clear reference to his expectation that he was going to be sacrificed by his enemies.
  1. He used the word “offered”, which alludes to old testament “offerings” by the Jews, set forth in Leviticus 23. Lev. 23:13, 18
    - a. The word “wine” in this passage is the Hebrew word *yayin*, which YOUNG’S Concordance states the meaning to be “what is **poured out**, grape juice” (p. 1068).
    - b. The Greek word used by Paul in connection with the crown was the word *sendomai* which literally means “**to pour out**”,
      - 1) When Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, He told the disciples that the fruit of the vine was His blood that was “shed” or “poured out”. Matt. 26:28; Mk.14:24 (Compare KJV with ASV; Modern Literal Translation).
      - 2) it is noteworthy that pure juice of the grape, before and without fermentation, would best describe the pure blood of Jesus on the cross.
      - 3) It is also good to note that when God gave instructions for the “drink offering”, with the juice being “poured out), that they observed it at the time of the beginning of the harvest, when the first juice of the grapes was available before fermentation. Cf Lev. 23:10, 39
  2. Also, remember that the drink offering was to be a “sweet” aroma to God, which would come from pure, sweet juice of the grape, before it became fermented. Cf Phil. 2:17 (KJV, NKJ); cf Micah 6:15
- B. Not only does Paul liken His being “offered” in HIS death, but he also likens his death to a “departure,” as he would set sail into eternity. 2 Tim. 4:6; cf Phil. 1:5-8; 2:17

### II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, the PAST EXPERIENCE FOR THE CROWN.

- A. First of all, Paul said he had “**fought a good fight.**” v. 7

1. This was not just ANY fight, but “the good fight,” in which HE was a good soldier for the Lord. 1 Cor. 15:32; 2 Cor. 10:3-5
  2. It was “the good fight,” as he was on God’s side. 1 Tim. 6:12
- B. Secondly, Paul alludes to his past (as a runner) who had “**finished the course**” or the race set before him. ;v. 7; cf 1 Cor. 9:24-26
- C. Thirdly, Paul alludes to his having been true to the gospel, his having “**kept the faith**” in life and in defense OF the truth of the gospel. v. 7; cf Acts 20:26-27; Gal. 1:8; 1 Cor. 2:4-5; Jude 3

### **III. 3<sup>rd</sup>, the FUTURE EXPECTATION OF THE CROWN.**

- A. He first mentions that it was “laid up” for him. v. 3; Col. 1:5; 1 Tim. 6:17-19; 1 Pet. 1:3-4
- B. Then, he identifies what he expected, “ a crown of righteousness.” v.
1. It was a crown of “righteousness”, in that it was for those **made** “righteous” BY the gospel. Rom. 1:16-17
  2. Then Paul says some other things about that crown.
    - a. 1<sup>st</sup>, it would be bestowed by “the Lord, the righteous judge.” v. 8; Acts 17:30
    - b. 2<sup>nd</sup>, it would be given “at that day,” the day of his appearing. v. 8; Tit. 2:13
    - c. 3<sup>rd</sup>, it would be for “all them that love his appearing” v. 8

#### **CONCLUSION**

I. The only way to “love His appearance” is to love Him and His word NOW, in this life, by obedience and acceptance of His will. John 14:15; 12:48; 1 John 5:3

II. Are you a baptized, penitent believer?

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