

ANTICIPATION OF THE CROWN

INTRODUCTION

- I. Virtually every prince or princess of royalty lives in anticipation of the time of coronation as king or queen.
 - A. Yet the GREATEST crown is available to every child of God.
 - B. Paul speaks of his anticipation of that crown. 2 Tim. 4:6-8
 1. Paul was in prison for his faith in Jesus.
 2. He expected the sacrifice of his life, but he looked forward to the appearance of the Lord, the righteous judge.
- II. In this anticipation, Paul speaks of his PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE—in **this passage**.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, Paul speaks of his VICTORIOUS PAST.

- A. He alludes to his having been a **soldier**, in that he fought a good fight. v. 7
 1. Paul's ministry was a WAR he FOUGHT against evil. 1 Cor. 15:32; 2 Cor. 10:3-4
 2. Paul's fight was a GOOD fight, as he was on God's side. v. 7; 1 Tim. 6:12
- B. Paul also alludes to his being a **runner**, in that he had completed the course set before him. v. 7; 1 Cor. 9:24, 26; Heb. 12:1
- C. Paul then alludes to his having been a faithful **steward** of the gospel. v. 7; Acts 20:16-27; Gal. 1:8; Jude 23; 1 Cor. 4:2

II. 2nd, Paul speaks of his PEACEFUL PRESENT.

- A. He was "ready" (or willing) to be offered as a **sacrifice** on the altar. v. 6
- B. Paul looked upon this offering as a time of his "**departure**" from the parts of this life, to set sail into eternity. v. 6; Phil. 1:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:8-10

III, 3rd, Paul speaks of a BLISSFUL FUTURE.

- A. In the 1st place, he speaks of something "**laid up**" for him. v.8; cf Col.1:5; 1 Pet. 1:3-4
- B. In the 2nd place, he speaks of that which "**awaits**" him—a crown of righteousness—the final reward.
 1. There are 2 words in the Greek language for the English word "crown."
 - a. 1st, the Greek word *diadema*, signifying **kingly or imperial dignity**.
 - b. 2nd, the Greek word *stephanos*, signifying the **victor's crown**, the crown of gold given after a race of some kind.
 2. The *stephanos* is used **HERE** as in other places which describes the crown of eternal life Christ will give at His return. 1 Cor. 9:25; 1 Pet. 5:4; Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10
 - a. It is a crown of righteousness, given by the "righteous" judge. 2 Tim. 4:8
 - b. It is a crown given to those who love His appearing by righteous living. v. 8

CONCLUSION

- I. This crown will be given to Paul and ALL that "love His appearing" in the last day by being in becoming a Christian and remaining faithful to His word. John 14:15; 1 John 5:3
- II. Have you been obedient to His word?

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