

Basic Discipleship

A Course On New Testament Discipleship

Topic #8

#3. There is the crown of righteousness given to those who eagerly await His return.

1. The Apostle Paul mentions this particular “**crown**” just before ___ execution.
2. In his final epistle written to Timothy, he describes ____ he expected this reward.

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up 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 loved His appearing (2 Timothy 4:6–8).

3. The end has come, so he describes himself as “**being poured out as a drink offering**” because he knew he would soon be gone and that he would be home with the _____.
4. We know he was executed by the language he uses, not to mention a well-founded tradition says that they bound him and removed his _____ on a chopping block.
5. If you were an observer there that day and all you saw was Paul’s head fall off and his body go limp — then you would not — have seen _____.
6. However, that is not the way Paul understood the end of his life, for he viewed that chopping block as an “**altar**” and his life as a “**drink offering**” given to the _____.
7. The “**drink offering**” is mentioned—over and over again—in the books of Exodus, Leviticus & Numbers — describing when the priest would take — about a pint of wine and pour it over the ___ sacrifice on the “**brazen altar**” (Numbers 15:1-10).
8. When the “**wine**” was poured on the sacrifice — the “**drink offering**” would go ___ in steam—evaporating as a “**soothing aroma to the Lord**” (Numbers 15:10; 28:8).
9. Even so—Paul here and in other passages—described his life like a _____:

15 But I have written very boldly to you on some points, so as to remind you again, because of the grace that was given me from God, 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, that my offering of the Gentiles might become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:15, 16).

17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all (Philippians 2:17).

10. Like the steam of an Old Testament offering—Paul knew he would come into God’s presence as a “**soothing aroma**” expecting to receive “**the crown of righteousness**” not because of the way he died—but because of the way he had—lived his _____.

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11. This great Apostle, summed up his life & ministry by repeating _____ metaphors, or three images that he has already used in this letter—that of a “**soldier**” (2:4), an “**athlete**” (2:5) and that of a “**steward**” entrusted with a “**treasure**” (1:14).
12. Like a good soldier he had — “**fought the good fight**” knowing that — he and every believer is in a “**battle**” to be fought — as we defend the great _____ of the Bible, and offensively as we carry “**the gospel**” into enemy territory (Ephesians 6:12):

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13. Like a well-disciplined athlete he had “**finished the course**” by walking in the works that _____ prepared for him—and so fulfilling his entrusted ministry.
14. If you remember, several years before—Paul had spoken to the elders of the church in Ephesus — over which Timothy is now the pastor — and he had expressed to them that his ambition to “**finish**” _____ when he said (Acts 20:24):

24 “But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

15. Of course — at that time the Apostle Paul he did not know whether he had another 3 years or another 13 years — whatever God had for him — he was determined not to quit but to keep faithfully serving Jesus Christ right up to the very end of _____.
16. However—when he writes this letter God had revealed to his Apostle that the end had now come & so now he is able to say — “**I have finished the course**” — for he had depended on the Spirit to give him the required discipline to compete _____.

5 And also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules (1 Timothy 2:5).

17. But beyond being — a good soldier — and a disciplined athlete — he was a _____ steward as he ‘**retained the standard of sound doctrine**’ (2:13)—and as he guarded ‘**the treasure**’ entrusted to him (1:15) being able to say, ‘**I have kept the faith**’ (4:6).

18. Throughout this letter — Paul has emphasized — the importance of _____ and defending “**the good deposit**” (1:14) of revealed truth—here called “**the faith**” (4:6).
19. Like the Apostle Paul, we are to fight a fight & to run a race & to guard a _____.
20. Each involves labor—sacrifice & sometimes even danger—and in all three Paul had been faithful to the end & so he was able to look back — with _____ regrets.
21. Years before—what had once been expresses as a goal—had now become a _____.
22. In effect, this great Apostle was saying that Caesar is not going to kill him, but that in God’s sovereignty—he was going to _____ his life—as a sacrifice to Jesus Christ.
23. With his death imminent—he knew that all that remained—was for him to be given “**the crown of righteousness**”—which was not a “**crown**” that was unique to _____ as an Apostle & as a martyr—but given “**to all who have loved His appearing**” (4:8).
24. Certainly, though he had been condemned by Rome, he anticipated this “**crown**” given to him by “**the righteous Judge**” Jesus Christ—which would certainly be a righteous vindication in Heaven’s court of a “**not guilty**” status of his _____.
25. While Nero in a short time will declare him “**guilty**” and condemn him to death, “**on that day**” — when he meets _____ in heaven the Lord will vindicate him.
26. There will be a great reversal of verdicts “**when the Lord the righteous judge**” declares him “**not guilty**” with his “**crown of righteousness**” — and so while _____ may condemn him “**on that day**” the Lord Jesus will vindicate him.
27. In the end—there will be *a great reversal* for so many of us—and if you forget that a day may come when you might yield to the pressure of the world, instead of holding true & faithful to the high standards of godliness that God has prescribed for us.
28. Many of God’s men & women who have been condemned, criticized, ostracized, and detested by the world — will be vindicated — by Jesus Christ in _____.
29. Those things that they did in this life for God—will ultimately have His stamp of approval at “**the judgment seat of Christ**” where God has the _____ word.
30. In the end—what will really matter is not what Nero thought of the Apostle Paul, but what God thought of him — and this is equally true — for _____ as well.
31. With that said—we must consider precisely how this “**crown of righteousness**” can be given to _____ believer who is said to “**have loved His appearing**” (4:8).

32. Once again—salvation is not in view because he speaks of this “**crown**” that Christ will give as an “**award**” because it speaks of something that is achieved or ____.
33. Clearly, this has nothing to do with meriting salvation for he has already said in in chapter ____ that Christ “**has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace**” (1:9).
34. We know from the context of this book — and the rest of the New Testament that the Apostle Paul—is not speaking of imputed “**righteousness**” (Romans 4:5) or of “**the gift of righteousness**” (Rom. 5:17) that’s given freely when one trusts ____.
35. This “**crown**” is an “**award**” indicating that it is something that is achieved—which immediately tells us—that he is not speaking of positional “**righteousness**” but of experiential or practical “**righteousness**” a concept that we ____ in Section 2.
36. Positional “**righteousness**” speaks of our “**justification**”—when we are identified as being in Christ & covered over with His perfection based on the merits of the ____.
37. Practical “**righteousness**” speaks of our “**sanctification**” where God begins to match our practice and our experience — to what He has declared of ____ in our position.
38. Contextually, this is the “**award**” given as a “**crown**” that the Apostle Paul has in ____ for himself and — “**to all who have loved His appearing**” (2 Timothy 4:8).
39. It is not accidental that there is a connection between this “**crown**” and a genuine longing and ____ for the “**appearing**” of Jesus’ return—when He comes for us.
40. Throughout the New Testament our incentive for faithfulness & for righteous living is _____ to the promise of His return — just as Peter reminds us:

8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. 11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness (2 Peter 3:8–11).

41. Remember—when Paul mentions those who “**love His appearing**” (2 Tim. 4:8), he is not talking about whether you enjoy discussing God’s timetable of events, simply as some intellectual exercise in regard to ____ Christ will come back.
42. Rather, Paul is speaking of those who “**love His appearing**” because they love Jesus, and a ____ love of Him will always results in obeying what He says (1 Jn. 4:17–5:3):

17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. 19 We love, because He first loved us. 20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also. 1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

43. Because Paul "**loved His appearing**" — he lived righteously and he served faithfully, and the same could be said for the Apostle John who reminds us of this same _____.

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure (1 John 3:2–3).

44. When the Apostle Paul writes of those who "**love His appearing**" in 2 Timothy 4:8, each of us — should ask ourselves — "**Do I love His appearing?**" — because to "**love His appearing**" — really means that — you have to "**love**" _____.

45. Again, please note — he is speaking here of those who "**love His appearing**" and not to the particular doctrine you hold—concerning His "**appearing**" though it is certainly important to be "**_____**" in "**doctrine**" (Titus 1:9).

46. The real issue—that this verse should raise in our thinking is—"**Do I look forward to the Lord Jesus coming back?**" — because if I do it is a _____ that I "**love**" Him.

47. All those who live with this expectation—will have their lifestyle impacted—for this is God's promise for us—if we will set our focus on Christ who both walked on the earth and who now reigns in heaven — the very One who is waiting to receive ____.

2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. 5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. 6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, (Colossians 3:2–6).

48. Do not be dismayed by even Christians who might be influenced by mockers & so, they in turn downplay studying & speaking about Jesus' return — because there is a "**crown**" for those who "**love His appearing**" and I want to have that _____.