

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

Even after a thousand years the bride is adorned for her husband. It has been said that every act now has its present and eternal consequences.

- **Colossians 3:23-25**

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.”

Beloved of the Lord may we go on for the Lord in love for Him according to the instruction that He has given us in the precious Word of God.

- **Revelation 22:6, 12, 20, 21**

“And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: ... And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be ... He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”

- **1 Peter 1:4, 5**

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

How wonderful, beloved, our inheritance is sure and even though we are weak and failing we have the promise that we are kept by the power of God!

It is my prayer that this little meditation may stimulate each of us to be exercised about our inheritance and how valuable it is. It can so easily be lost in part and that the loss is not ours alone but the opportunity to bring glory and honour to our Lord Jesus Christ can be lost. May it not be so!

E. Ferguson
January 2007

THE CHRISTIAN'S INHERITANCE

OUR BLESSINGS & THE KINGDOM

Heirs of God & Joint-heirs with Christ

“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.”

Romans 8:17-21

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- Hebrews 3:13
- “But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”
- Hebrews 10:24

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:”

- Philippians 3:13, 14

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

- Colossians 3:16-17

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

- Galatians 6:9

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

- Revelation 19:7-9 JND

“Let us rejoice and exult, and give him glory; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife has made herself ready. And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and pure; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints. And he says to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the supper of the marriage of the Lamb. And he says to me, These are the true words of God.”

The making herself ready is now and in that wonderful day our deeds will be displayed and bring glory to Christ. What an incentive this is for us beloved!

- Revelation 21:2

“And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Who answered, Give me a blessing; for thou hast given me a south land; give me also springs of water. And he gave her the upper springs, and the nether springs. This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Judah according to their families."

Othniel Caleb's nephew steps worthily into the footprints of his uncle "who wholly followed the Lord". Achsah Caleb's daughter was the object of priceless value in Othniel's eye, and, bent on possessing her, he enters the conflict.

Are we set upon having Christ at all cost?

In Judges Chapter 3 Othniel becomes the first judge in Israel. An overcomer for himself, he is raised up to deliver others, and in this new character perseveres to the close.

Achsah, Caleb's daughter, is also a fresh example of perseverance. Caleb had given her to Othniel, and she moves her husband to ask yet more. She would have a field and besides that, springs of water. So she craves a blessing as well as the field of her possession, and, to obtain it, lights off her ass to proffer her request, an example of **perseverance** in prayer and supplications. The springs of water are richly bestowed upon her, types of spiritual blessings. Is this not also special instruction for us?

What about US?

When we take the word of God in our hands, do we earnestly ask God for the springs of water? Are these not precious pictures of Christ in His perfect walk in the energy of the Holy Spirit and His life on high at the right hand of the majesty on high?

To many Christians this living Word is like a parched barren land in which their souls find no sustenance. If this is true may we, like Achsah, taken the suppliant's place, asking from God that spiritual help that can alone cause the Word to be fruitful for our soul? Would God not give us an answer such as Caleb gave to Achsah?

Do we value the inheritance we receive as children of God? Do we come to the Lord Jesus to request help to be faithful to Him? Do we want to reign with Him in His day of great glory? What influence do we have on others to encourage them to also "run the race" for our Lord Jesus?

- **Hebrews 12:1, 2**

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

INTRODUCTION

The salvation of the soul is a gift freely given to "whosoever" will. It is for all who by faith trust in Christ's atoning sacrifice and resurrection. Although this is a free gift it cost the Lord Jesus His life and inestimable suffering on Calvary's cruel cross at the hand of man, withstanding Satan's power, and while enduring the atoning sufferings at the hand of a thrice holy God. Salvation is complete once sinners have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and they are eternally secure. They cannot be lost but in considering the subject of the inheritance and the Kingdom there are some aspects that can be lost if we are not vigilant, obedient and dependent.

- **Romans 8:35-39 (Eternally secure)**

*"Who shall separate us from **the love of Christ**? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from **the love of God**, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Nothing, beloved saint of God, can separate us from the love of Christ and the love of God!

- **Ephesians 2:8 (Saved by sovereign grace alone)**

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Saved by grace through faith but Christians are to continue after they are saved. We are to walk in good works, worthy of the Lord.

- **Ephesians 2:10 (We are to display the new nature in good works)**

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Our salvation and good works bring to the Christian an inheritance which includes rewards. These will not be fully realized until after the rapture when we are taken to heaven and our lives and works are reviewed at the Judgment Seat of Christ. The subject of our inheritance should encourage Christians to "be not weary in well doing."

- **2 Timothy 2:12 (if faithful we will suffer with Christ)**

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:"

A conditional blessing is ours if we suffer with Christ. This may entail physical sufferings or the sufferings by proclaiming Christ's name, or for righteousness sake or simply from self-denial, not allowing the flesh or the world to rob us of our valuable time for the Lord.

- **2 Corinthians 5:10 (The Lord Jesus will judge all the things done)**

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

The Scriptures teach us that after we are raptured to heaven with the Lord Jesus our lives will be judged and all that is done in love for Him according to the instructions in the Word of God will be rewarded. This is distinct from judgment for our sins.

Praise the Saviour, ye who know Him,

Who can tell how much we owe Him?

Gladly let us render to Him

All we have and are.

Little Flock # 256

HEIRS WITH GOD

The Unconditional Inheritance for all Christians

Some parts of our inheritance are received unconditionally as soon as we become the children of God. Once we have been born anew through the work of God the Holy Spirit we are a new creation and have a new nature that delights to please God. We become God's children. This is above all things most wonderful!

- **Galatians 4:7**

"Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

- **Romans 8:17**

"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;"

- **Ephesians 1:3 JND**

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ;"

OTHNIEL AND ACHSAH

- **Joshua 15:16-20**

"And Caleb said, He that smiteth Kirjathsepher, and taketh it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter to wife. And Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it; and he gave him Achsah his daughter to wife."

And it came to pass, as she came unto him, that she moved him to ask of her father a field: and she lighted off her ass; and Caleb said unto her, What wouldest thou?

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, The daughters of Zelophehad speak right: thou shalt surely give them a possession of an inheritance among their father's brethren; and thou shalt cause the inheritance of their father to pass unto them. And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a man die, and have no son, then ye shall cause his inheritance to pass unto his daughter."

These five girls valued their inheritance and spoke to Moses and Eleazar stating that they wanted to claim their inheritance now that their father was dead. This was an earthly inheritance. How much more should we value our heavenly inheritance beloved!

- **Numbers 36:2**

"And they said, The LORD commanded my lord to give the land for an inheritance by lot to the children of Israel: and my lord was commanded by the LORD to give the inheritance of Zelophehad our brother unto his daughters."

- **Joshua 17:5, 6**

"And there fell ten portions to Manasseh, beside the land of Gilead and Bashan, which were on the other side Jordan: Because the daughters of Manasseh had an inheritance among his sons: and the rest of Manasseh's sons had the land of Gilead."

These girls wanted the full inheritance and even though some of their brethren were satisfied to settle on the east of the Jordan in the land of Gilead they had the full portion of their inheritance in the land that God had promised. Do we want a full inheritance beloved? Are we helping others so that they may also rejoice in that day?

- **2 Thessalonians 2:19**

"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?"

- **Hebrews 12:14**

*"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as **Esau**, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears."*

Instead of trusting God to feed him and take care of him, Esau sold his birthright. When it was time to inherit the blessing all his tears could not undo what had gone before. Though a Christian may be ashamed at the day when all is manifested it will then be too late. Too late to correct the wrongs, too late to take the missed opportunities, too late to kneel and ask the Lord for help and too late to read the precious Word to see what God wants and how He wants us to do things.

- **2 John 8**

"Look to yourselves that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

- **Philippians 2: 16**

"That I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain,"

- **1 John 2:28**

"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."

THE DAUGHTERS OF ZELOPHEHAD

- **Numbers 27:1-3, 6-8**

"Then came the daughters of Zelophehad, the son of Hepher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph: and these are the names of his daughters; Mahlah, Noah, and Hoglah, and Milcah, and Tirzah.

And they stood before Moses, and before Eleazar the priest, and before the princes and all the congregation, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying, Our father died in the wilderness ..."

In the first chapter of Ephesians the blessings of all believers according to the purpose of God are given. In this great passage we learn the **SOURCE**, the **CHARACTER** and the **BEGINNING** of our blessings, as well as the **END** God had in view in so richly blessing us, and above all, that the purposes of God are accomplished through Christ.

The source of all our blessings is found in the heart of our God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has been perfectly revealed to us in Christ.

Our Father has "blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ." The little word "*all*" tells us of the fulness of our blessings. Not a single blessing that Christ as a Man enjoyed has been kept back. We are blessed with "*all*" spiritual blessings. It is important to realize that Christian blessings are spiritual and not material, in contrast with the nation of Israel and that all these spiritual and heavenly blessings are in connection with Christ (our new birth) and not in any wise connected with Adam (our natural birth) or related to works. Oh what an heritage of God is ours through Christ Jesus!

There are "7" blessings associated with this inheritance given in Ephesians 1.

I. CHOSEN IN CHRIST

- **Ephesians 1:4a**

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world,"

II. HOLY and WITHOUT BLAME in LOVE

- **Ephesians 1:4b**

"That we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"

III. SONSHIP

- **Ephesians 1:5**

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,"

The blessing of verse 5 surpasses the blessing of verse 4 which was according to God's sovereign choice that by grace made us suited to Himself. Here in verse 5 it is by God's good pleasure that He predestinates believers to the relationship of sons.

IV. ACCEPTANCE

- **Ephesians 1:6b**

"... he hath made us accepted in the beloved."

If we are accepted in the Beloved, we are accepted as the Beloved, with all the delight with which Christ has been received into glory by our God and Father.

V. REDEEMED & FORGIVEN

• Ephesians 1:7

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"

Verses 4-6 present the **PURPOSE** of God for all believers and in verse 7 we are reminded of the **WAY** God has made it possible that we become partakers of these blessings. We have been redeemed through Christ's precious blood, and our sins are forgiven according to the riches of His grace. The **RICHES** of His grace meets all our need as sinners; the **GLORY** of His grace meets the good pleasure of God to bless us as saints.

VI. KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S SECRET

• Ephesians 1:9, 10

"Having made known unto us the mystery of his will ... that in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and in earth;"

In Scripture a "mystery" is not necessarily that which is mysterious, but rather a secret that is made known to believers before it is publicly declared to the world. It is the privilege of the believer to know the secrets of God's heart, and therefore know that God is going to work all things according to His good pleasure, and that in the end His purposes will prevail. We learn that there are two parts to this mystery. **Firstly**, there is God's purpose for Christ; **secondly**, there is that which God has purposed for the church (all believers) in association with His beloved Son.

It is God's pleasure, in the dispensation of the fullness of times, the Millennial day, to gather together in one all things in Christ. The "fulness", or perfection, of the times, will be seen when Christ reigns. As a result of His reign, unity, harmony and peace will prevail. Such is the secret, or mystery, of the will of God for the glory of Christ.

Further, we are permitted to see that it is according to God's good pleasure that the church, in association with Christ, shall have part in this vast inheritance over which Christ will reign as the Head. What a day it will be beloved, to be at the side of our Lord Jesus in that day of honour and glory.

• Ephesians 1:11, 12 JND

"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being marked out beforehand according to the purpose of him who worketh all things ... that we should be to the praise of his glory who have pre-trusted in Christ;"

CONCLUSION & EXHORTATION

• 1 Corinthians 2:15

At the Judgment Seat we will have the mind of Christ and will be able to judge *righteous* judgment, although it will be *Christ* who does the judging. Now our judging the motives of our brothers and sisters in the Lord can only cause division, strife, and heartache.

In this world we are not to judge motives but rather we are to judge things done.

"But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man."

Every Christian today is eternally secure in Christ. They will have a home in heaven and a wonderful, new, glorified body. At the Judgment Seat of Christ everything done in the body will be judged both the good and the bad works. The bad works will be thoroughly burned up in the fire while the good works will be purified of all imperfections. Anything that remains after purification will be part of the reward.

Are we living for Christ? Do we want to bring glory to Him? Do we value our inheritance?

In closing a few Old Testament examples should cause us to carefully examine ourselves as we ask these questions.

ESAU

• Genesis 25:29-34

"And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint: And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint therefore was his name called Edom. And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright do to me? And Jacob said, Swear to me this day: and what profit shall this birthright be unto Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright."

Does not Esau provide a sobering example for us of one who did not value his inheritance or trust God to meet his need in trial? He would sell the inheritance that was rightfully his for temporary benefit. What an example this is for us beloved!

These verses refer to the Judgment Seat. Some sins which Christians have committed are hidden and will only be revealed at that time. Nothing can escape the all-seeing eye of the Lord Jesus but some things He leaves to that day to manifest publicly.

- **1 John 2:28 JND**

"And now, children, abide in him, that if he be manifested we may have boldness, and not be put to shame from before him at his coming."

- **1 Corinthians 4:3**

"But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God."

- **Luke 12:2**

"For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops."

We will be like him after the rapture and thus would be able to "view" the result of sins in the way that He sees them. We will rejoice to see all the dead works burned up and all that did not glorify God.

- **1 Corinthians 3:13**

"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."

This verse says that the "work" of a Christian will be declared and revealed. The "work" which emanated from the flesh would be burned and destroyed.

- **Philippians 2:12**

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

- **1 Timothy 5:25**

"Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid."

In this verse the apostle says, "**we** have obtained an inheritance", referring doubtless to believers from among the Jews. The Jewish nation had lost their earthly inheritance through rejecting Christ and pursuing their own will. The remnant of the Jews, who believed in Christ, (and all Jews who trust in Christ before the rapture) obtained a more glorious and heavenly inheritance in the world to come, according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will. Associated with Christ in His reign, believers will display His glory. In that day He will be "glorified" and "admired" in all that believe (**2 Thess. 1: 10**). The world and the whole creation will be blessed **under Him**. The Church will have her portion **with Him**. These believers from amongst the Jews had "pre-trusted" in Christ. They had trusted in Christ in the day of His rejection: the restored nation will trust Him in the day of His glory and receive an earthly inheritance.

- **Ephesians 1:13**

"In who ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation..."

The "**ye**" of verse 13 brings in the Gentile believers to have part in the blessing of this glorious inheritance. They had believed the Gospel of their salvation, and then they have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

The "**our**" of verse 14 links all believers together both those from Jews and Gentiles. Such share in common this glorious inheritance.

VII. THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **Ephesians 1:13b, 14 JND**

"... ye have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the earnest of our inheritance to the redemption of the acquired possession to the praise of his glory."

In legal terms, the "earnest" is a promise or assurance of something to come. For a Christian this *earnest* is the Holy Spirit himself.

- **2 Corinthians 1:22**

"Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."

He indwells the Christian's body as a guarantee that we will not be lost and also that we will share in the inheritance.

- **Ephesians 1:11**

"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will."

All Christians will receive, as part of their inheritance, a glorified body, conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. This body comes with the gift of salvation, and God will give it to every one of his children. It is *not* earned or deserved but bestowed freely to those who have trusted Christ as their personal Saviour.

• **Romans 8:29**

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

• **1 Corinthians 15:51**

"Behold, I show you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

Our glorified bodies will be like that of Christ's. We will be able to travel through space with ease and appear from out of nowhere in closed rooms just like the Lord Jesus did after his resurrection. There will be no more pain or sufferings for the former things have passed away.

• **Philippians 3:21**

"Who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

Glorified Christians in their new and wonderful immortal body will also live in a glorious new home. The new home will be located in heaven with the Lord Jesus.

• **John 14:2 JND**

"In my Father's house there are many abodes; were it not so, I had told you: for I go to prepare you a place; and if I go and shall prepare you a place, I am coming again, and shall receive you to myself, that where I am ye also may be."

Our **new bodies** and **new homes** are part of the unconditional inheritance that came with our salvation. What a future is ours who know the Lord Jesus as Saviour and Lord! Do we appreciate this wonderful inheritance by working out in our daily lives works that would please God? This should cause us to fall before Him and ask that He would direct us in His will to bring glory to His name!

• **2 Corinthians 5:10**

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

• **Romans 6:19**

"I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness."

This yielding to righteousness and holiness will be rewarded and is very precious to the Lord Jesus. This yielding is never complete while we are here on earth and it requires daily carefulness, prayer, reading the Word of God and judging all that is not of God.

• **Romans 14:10-12**

"But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

We are instructed that it is not our place to judge the motives of our brothers or sisters in the Lord. This the Lord will do and all will be manifested by Him.

• **Galatians 5:16**

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."

• **Galatians 5:25**

"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

He had to exhort us because the old man, the fleshly man, is strong and can be overpowering. Yielding to the flesh and all of its desires leads to a loss of a reward at the Judgment Seat and a lost opportunity to bring joy to the heart of our precious Saviour and Lord.

• **1 Timothy 5:24**

"Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after. Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid."

- **Galatians 5:21**

"... of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

- **Colossians 3:24**

"Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

- **Ephesians 5:3**

"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

Once more Paul elaborates.

- **1 Corinthians 6:9**

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

Christians who continue in those sins listed above will not inherit the kingdom of God. What exactly does that mean? It appears to refer to the rewards or conditional inheritance that a true Christian will lose because of continuing in these terrible sins that so dishonour God and His beloved Son, our Lord Jesus who is so worthy.

❖ **THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**

The works of Christians will be judged and this will take place in heaven after the rapture and during the first part of the Tribulation that will be taking place on the earth.

Thus the purpose of the Judgment Seat of Christ is not to determine salvation but rather to determine what rewards will be received for the work done while alive on the earth. All believers will have their works judged. It will be a wonderful day to see those rewarded that have honoured the Lord Jesus and also to see that which was done in the flesh and not for Christ burned up and done away with.

JOINT-HEIRS WITH CHRIST

The Kingdom- The Conditional Inheritance

❖ **Good Works Are EXPECTED**

We are promised to be joint heirs with Christ, conditionally, if we suffer with Him.

- **Romans 8:17**

"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

- **2 Timothy 2:12**

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:"

- **2 Corinthians 5:9**

"Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him."

- **1 Timothy 6:18**

"That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;"

- **2 Timothy 3:17**

"That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

- **Titus 2:7**

"In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,"

- **Titus 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."

- **Titus 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."

But even in our labor to do good works all the praise and honor and glory reflect back to Christ. All our works that will receive rewards will because they were done in love for Christ and done according to the instruction in the Word of God. God the Holy Spirit enables us to do His will by His own power. He works in us so that we might earn rewards.

- **1 Corinthians 15:10**

"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain: but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

Paul says "I laboured" but it really wasn't me. He recognizes that if anything good comes from his work, that it is because of Christ and not because of him.

- **Colossians 1:29**

"Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily."

- **Philippians 2:13**

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

Christ can work in a Christian as long as that Christian yields himself to Christ's control. The more the Christian is yielded the more Christ can do with him for the glory of God. This yielding, however, is accounted quite high in God's sight. Even though it is God Himself who does the work in the Christian and accomplishes the desired results from the work, it is the Christian who is rewarded for his obedience to God's will.

- **1 Corinthians 15:58**

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

- **Philippians 2:16**

"Holding forth the word of life: that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."

Labour for the Lord Jesus Christ is neither vain nor empty for the labourer or for the Lord. The labourer shall receive his reward and the Lord will accomplish his desired purpose.

- **Ephesians 6:8**

"Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free."

- **Galatians 5:17**

"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

The old nature in the believer is capable of all of these things. It resists the Holy Spirit and cannot be controlled or improved. In Christ it is condemned at the cross and we are to reckon it so. This can be done in the energy of the Spirit while continually remembering the death of the Lord Jesus on the cross.

- **Romans 6:11**

"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

- **2 Corinthians 4:10-12**

"Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh."

We are now seen by God as in Christ Jesus. We are "accepted in the Beloved" and now that we are saved we are identified with Him but the work of reckoning our selves dead to sin practically is a progressive day-by-day process.

- **Galatians 2:20**

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

- **Romans 7:23**

"But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members."

Although sins committed if we are true believers are cleansed in the precious blood of Christ if we continue in them we will lose our reward and most importantly it dishonours the Lord Jesus who is so worthy.

- **Luke 19:24**

"And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him."

This servant comes away from this judgment with nothing but his salvation. There may very well be many saved people who will fare this way. What a loss for Christ.

- **Luke 19:27**

"But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me."

These are the Lord's enemies, the citizens, those who are lost. There was no work expected from them and they did not have eternal life, a life that could please God.

- **2 Peter 1, 10, 11**

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

- **Colossians 3:2**

"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

- **Romans 16:17**

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."

- **2 Thessalonians 3:13**

"But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed."

The Lord may take a Christian to heaven who continues sinning, ruining their life and that of others. Christians are capable of every sin that a lost person could commit. Our old nature is not gone until the rapture or at death and Satan will try to use it.

- **2 Timothy 2:21**

"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

- **Galatians 6:7-10**

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

Christians, who labour for the Lord by yielding their body and will, sow spiritual seeds which will reap "life everlasting." That does not mean for themselves as they are already saved and have eternal life. It means "life everlasting" for other people. Christ came to save sinners and everything that we do for him and through him points people to the cross.

- **Psalms 126:6**

"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

- **1 Peter 4:19**

"Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."

- **1 Corinthians 3:6**

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour."

These verses promise that there will be a harvest. Just as a farmer does not pick his corn the day after he planted it, we will not reap until later, but the reaping has been guaranteed. We just need to keep prayerfully planting. What a privilege is ours beloved!

Paul likens our work for the Lord as a harvest. He recognizes that there are different "kinds" of workers. Some plant while others water; but in all cases it is God who gives the increase of souls and blessings to His honor and glory but now is the day for labour!

- **2 Timothy 2:6 JND**

"The husbandman must labour before partaking of the fruits."

- **1 Corinthians 3:9**

"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building".

❖ Rewards Are EARNED

Our work for God is to labour "together with him". All our labour would be vain if God did not do His part but God has chosen us as the way in which he will accomplish His work. In this next verse Paul includes another metaphor with which he will continue on in the next verses. He switches from husbandry or farming or carpentry.

• I Corinthians 3:10

"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."
The foundation for individual salvation and the Church of the living God is the Lord Jesus Christ. Each individual Christian is part of the larger whole. This passage lists six building materials illustrating the quality of the work performed for God.

• I Corinthians 3:12

"Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;"

The first three items are precious and rare. We are told that these are what we should strive for.

• Matthew 6:20

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Our anticipated rewards to the glory of God and His beloved Son should be an incentive for us to continue to work diligently and enable us to set our affections (minds) on things that are above.

GOLD is listed first. Gold represents the divine nature, God's nature. Pure gold was used in the making of the tabernacle in the wilderness where God promised to meet with his people. The furniture was gold, and even the boards of the walls were covered with gold. The mercy seat where God received the blood was solid gold and the high priest wore an engraved gold plate, fastened to the mitre.

• Exodus 25:17

"And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof."

The widow's two mites were said to be more than anyone else had given. (Mark 12:41-44) It is thus not the quantity of the work but the faithfulness with which it was carried out that is rewarded.

• Luke 19:20, 21

"And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow."

This servant was not faithful at all. Consider the reasons why! He makes an excuse and in doing so actually accuses the Lord of being severe. He says he feared the Lord but this fear was not reverential fear mingled with faith.

• Psalm 36:1

"The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes."

• Proverbs 1:29

"For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:"

This servant did not truly fear the Lord which was evidenced by his unfaithfulness.

• Psalm 128:1

"Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways."

Not only did not fear but he tried to blame the Lord. How sad!

• Luke 19:22

"And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:"

The accusation against the Lord is untrue but the Lord uses the man's own words to reveal his unfaithful heart.

• Luke 19:23

"Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?"

The Lord asks the servant "If you were so scared of me, believing that I took and reaped where I wanted, then why did you not do all you could to appease me?" There will be no reasonable answer in that day.

Note that this verse mentions "citizens" not servants. These citizens represent those who reject the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour.

- **Luke 19:15**

"And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading."

Christ "having received the kingdom" refers to the final part of the resurrection of the just being complete and the millennial Kingdom being given to the Lord Jesus. At that point all the members of His kingdom will be with him in heaven. It will be manifested at this time who will reign with the Lord and what they will reign over.

- **Luke 19:16**

"Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds."

This servant has earned a 1000% profit from the Lord's pound. The word "pound" is only found six times in the Bible besides the times in this parable. Four times it is a weight for silver or gold (**I Kings 10:17; Ezra 2:69; Nehemiah 7:71, 72**) and twice it is a weight of ointment in spices (**John 12:3; 19:39**).

The spices mentioned - spikenard, myrrh and aloes - are all spices for embalming and burial. It is interesting to note that the flowers of the spikenard plant are red-purple. It may well be that the spices represent the suffering a godly Christian will endure. This particular servant did very well with what the Lord had given him. Oh that this may stimulate us to be faithful to Him who loves us and died for us!

- **Luke 19:17**

"And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities."

Notice the quantity is "very little" but the quality was "faithful." We all have differing talents and resources to use for the Lord that he has given us. But what we do with those things, our faithfulness, is what counts at the Judgment Seat. So this faithful servant is given authority over ten cities.

- **Luke 19:18**

"And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities."

This servant was not quite as faithful as the first but he is still rewarded for what he did. The Lord emphasizes quality and not quantity.

- **Exodus 28:36**

"And thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, like the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD."

Since gold is one of the things with which we can build in God's building it emphasizes that the work must be wrought according to the nature of God; in holiness and divine love.

- **Psalms 119:127**

"Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold."

SILVER is second in the list of building materials describing a Christian's work. In the Old Testament silver refers to redemption.

- **Leviticus 27:3**

"And thy estimation shall be of the male from twenty years old even unto sixty years old, even thy estimation shall be fifty shekels of silver, after the shekel of the sanctuary."

- **Numbers 18:16**

"And those that are to be redeemed from a month old shalt thou redeem, according to thine estimation, for the money of five shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs."

In the Old Testament silver had to do with redemption and so it may be that a Christian's earned silver may have to do with witnessing to redemption in Christ through his blood.

- **1 Peter 1:18**

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"

PRECIOUS STONES - God's jewels or precious gem stones represent people.

- **Exodus 28:11**

"With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, shalt thou engrave the two stones with the names of the children of Israel: thou shalt make them to be set in ouches of gold."

- **Zechariah 9:16**

"And the LORD their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land."

• **Malachi 3:17**

"And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him."

• **1 Peter 2:5**

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

Since jewels represent people it may be that Christians could earn jewels for their work helping fellow-Christians in the House of God.

The next three elements, **WOOD**, **HAY**, and **STUBBLE** all share one thing in common. While gold, silver, and precious stones will be shown to be pure by the fire at the Judgment Seat of Christ, the wood, hay, and stubble will be thoroughly burned up.

Thus our works are either done through obedience and love to the Lord or done for self in the energy of the flesh. Things done according to the Word and in love for the Lord will endure the fire, while things done through self will and for vain glory will be burned up.

• **Job 21:18**

"They are as stubble before the wind, and as chaff that the storm carrieth away."

• **Psalms 1:3**

"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season: his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

• **Psalms 92:12**

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon."

• **Isaiah 5:24**

"Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel."

• **1 Peter 1:24**

"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away."

It would appear then that any fleshly quality of our work for the Lord will be purged from our good deeds and the selfish or wicked fleshly works will be completely consumed.

• **2 Timothy 3:12**

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

Every Christian today is in the kingdom of the heavens or the rule of the heavens. The thought of the kingdom of God in the three synoptic gospels or kingdom of heaven (in Matthew alone) has to do with the sphere over which Christ and his own will reign but in Paul's epistles and John's ministry it is more to do with the moral character of the kingdom.

The parable in Luke 19 is a parable of the kingdom of God (the rule of the heavens) and has to do with faithfulness in service while the King (the Lord Jesus) is not here.

• **Romans 14:17**

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

• **Luke 19:12**

"He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return."

The "certain nobleman" is Christ, while the "far country" is the world and the "kingdom" in this context is the sphere of the rule of the kingdom of God.

• **Luke 19:13**

"And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come."

Ten is the number of human responsibility (ten fingers, ten toes and Ten Commandments). We are the Lord's servants, as well as his adopted children. Also note those servants are delivered "pounds". This is what God has given us and what He expects us to use for Christ according to His Word.

• **Romans 6:22**

"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

• **Luke 19:14**

"But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us."

- **Isaiah 4:5, 6 JND**

"And Jehovah will create over every dwelling-place of mount Zion, and over its convocations, a cloud by day and a smoke, and the brightness of a flame of fire by night: for over all the glory shall be a covering. And there shall be a tabernacle for shade by day from the heat, and for a shelter and for a covert from storm and from rain."

- **Revelation 7:15 JND**

"Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple, and he that sits upon the throne shall spread his tabernacle over them."

- **Romans 8:17**

"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

This "glorified together" has to do with the "glory" of reigning. Christ is glorified as a ruler and so will those who rule and reign with him.

- **1 Corinthians 4:12**

"And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:"

- **2 Thessalonians 1:4**

"So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:"

- **1 Timothy 4:10**

"For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."

Reproach may be verbal abuse in contrast to the extreme physical torment of torture or depravation. This can be very difficult to endure also. The suffering caused by reproach may be largely internal, but still genuine suffering.

- **Luke 6:22**

"Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake."

- **1 Corinthians 3:13**

"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."

- **1 Corinthians 3:14**

"If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward."

Whatever comes out of the fire will be rewarded. All Christians will not earn the same rewards, and the rewards they receive will be according to Christ's judgment of the motive and moral quality of the work.

- **1 Corinthians 3:15**

"If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

This man is left with only his salvation. Oh that we might labour for the Lord to bring glory to His blessed Name.

- **1 Corinthians 4:5b**

... then shall every man have praise of God.

God will have something to reward every Christian. Perhaps it will be for a thought about Christ or a word spoken for Him.

- **Malachi 3:16.**

"Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name."

❖ **The Five CROWNS**

There are five crowns mentioned in the precious Word of God speaking typically of the rewards earned and the honour received for faithfulness in various ways.

1. The Incorruptible Crown is the crown given for running the good Christian race according to God's rules as recorded in Holy Scripture.

- **2 Corinthians 9:24**

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

In an earthly race there is only one winner, but in the Christian race one runs only against themselves, and each may earn a crown.

- **2 Corinthians 9:25**
"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."

The means with which we run a winning race is here emphasized: **temperance**. For an earthly runner moderation and self restraint are very necessary if they want to win. Things like smoking, overeating, drug abuse, oversleeping, or any kind of immoderate behavior would severely hinder the chances of running well. The same is equally true for Christian service.

- **2 Corinthians 9:26**
"I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:"

The apostle Paul emphatically states that temperance is the key and that without it he might as well just beat the air because he wouldn't be going anywhere.

- **2 Corinthians 9:27**
"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."

"Castaway" in this verse does not mean that a Christian can lose their salvation but that they lose their usefulness for the Lord's work (and thus the subsequent rewards.)
"In my flesh dwelleth no good thing." Every Christian must reckon his body of flesh in the place of death by the Holy Spirit which dwells within. Doing so will result in a winning race and reward from the Lord Jesus. It will also bring glory to His blessed Name! What a motive this is for us beloved.

- **Romans 6:16**
"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"
- **Romans 12:1, 2**
"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

❖ REIGNING with Christ

Christ speaks often about "reigning" with him..

- **2 Timothy 2:12**
"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:"
- **Revelation 5:10**
"And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on (over) the earth."
- **Revelation 20:4**
"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

All those who have a part in the first resurrection are eligible to reign with Christ. The first resurrection, has two parts which include those saints who will ascend with Christ at the rapture and also the tribulation saints who will die and will be raptured during the tribulation and they will all reign with Christ during the Millennium

- **Revelation 20:6**
"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."
- **Revelation 22:5**
"And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."
- **Isaiah 9:7**
"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

Israel and Jerusalem will be greatly humbled by the Lord and will realize their sins of idolatry and their great sin in crucifying their Messiah. They will accept the Lord Jesus Christ as the Saviour and Messiah and this will be a crown of glory to the Lord Himself.

- **Jeremiah 13:18**

*"Say unto the king and to the queen, Humble yourselves, sit down: for your principalities shall come down, even **the crown of your glory.**"*

- **Isaiah 28:1**

*"Woe to **the crown of pride**, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower, which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine! Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, which as a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall cast down to the earth with the hand. **The crown of pride**, the drunkards of Ephraim, shall be trodden under feet: And the glorious beauty, which is on the head of the fat valley, shall be a fading flower, and as the hasty fruit before the summer; which when he that looketh upon it seeth, while it is yet in his hand he eateth it up. In that day shall the LORD of hosts be for **a crown of glory**, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people,"*

The "crown of pride" is the antithesis to the "crown of glory."

God hates pride and *honours* humility. Indeed Lucifer's sin was that of pride and envy, and pride is a sin which plagues everyone. This fundamental sin is one with which we need to continuously cry to the Lord for help. It can be very deceitful and even masquerade as humility.

- **1 Peter 5:6**

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:"

- **Job 36:7**

"He withdraweth not his eyes from the righteous: but with kings are they on the throne; yea, he doth establish them for ever, and they are exalted."

Our crowns are all because of what the Lord Jesus Christ has accomplished and will be cast at His feet.

- **Revelation 4:10**

"The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

2. The Crown Of Rejoicing is given to those who win souls for Christ.

- **2 Thessalonians 2:19**

"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?"

- **Philippians 4:1**

"Therefore, my brethren, dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved."

In these verses the apostle Paul writes to his own children in the Lord. They have a particularly close relationship with him. A crown for soul winning fits very well with the verses already mentioned about precious stones representing people. It may be that the precious stones will be displayed in this crown.

3. The Crown of Righteousness is given to those who love the Lord's appearing when He will be glorified before the world that rejected Him.

- **2 Timothy 4:8**

"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."

Christians who long for the Lord's appearing, which will be when He comes back to earth with His bride, shall receive the Crown of Righteousness. What a day of manifested glory that will be beloved.

- **2 Thessalonians 1:10**

"When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe..."

4. The Crown of Life is given to those who give their life in service or in death for Christ.

- **James 1:12**

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

- **Revelation 2:10**

"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

Either enduring to the end of the trial itself or until the end of one's life while being a testimony for Christ will win the Crown of Life as a reward. Historically many Christians were imprisoned and martyred for their faith and still remained steadfast while there are those even today who die for Christ. To live faithfully for the Lord Jesus, separate from the world, even giving up this life and all of its acclaim, is very precious to Christ and will also be rewarded with the crown of life. It is very true that it is as hard to live for Christ as it is to die for Him.

5. The Crown of Glory is given to those who faithfully shepherd God' people.

• 1 Peter 5:4

"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

The Shepherd's Crown is earned by a Christian who faithfully shepherds other dear Christians along in life's journey for the Lord. Perhaps using the Word of God they help some who are struggling perhaps through some deep trial or loss or it may be helping one who is impaired and unable to work.

This is time consuming work performed quietly and unseen with little to no glory but there will be a day when the Lord rewards this faithful work for Him with the crown of glory.

• 1 Peter 5:1

"The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind: Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock."

It is stressed not just to feed the flock but to do it in the right way. They are to take the oversight or give watchful care. They are not to do it by constraint which is the threat or use of force to dictate the actions or thoughts of others.

They are to do it willingly not because of money, but with a ready mind that is prepared and available for service. And also they are not to domineer or "lord over" their flock but rather be examples to the dear sheep. Following these exhortations will earn the crown of glory. When we truly love the Lord Jesus we will love His people.

• 1 Peter 5:5

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

Does this mean that those on both sides of the "likewise" earn the Crown of Glory? The one who shepherds and also the one who humbly submits with thankfulness may receive the crown. The shepherd is not to "lord" his position over those in his flock and the sheep are to submit.

• Proverbs 4:9

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee."

• Proverbs 5:33

"The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility."

There is no doubt that wisdom and humility go hand in hand when serving the Lord and when we exalt the Lord Jesus it shall be rewarded in that day of manifestation.

• Proverbs 16:31

"The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness."

These verses say "a" crown of glory and not "the" Crown of Glory, but as in 1st Peter they emphasize that righteousness and humility are precious to God.

• Proverbs 22:4

"By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life."

• Proverbs 29:23

"A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit."

• Isaiah 62:3

"Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God."

This is a reference to the restoration of Israel and Jerusalem and the fact that the earthly glory brought to God through their repentance and humbling.

• Isaiah 62:4

"Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married."