

Message Five

**Receiving the Crown of Righteousness
and Being Saved unto the Lord's Heavenly Kingdom**

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim. 4:8, 18, 22

- I. "Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing"—**

2 Tim. 4:8:

- A. The crown is a symbol of glory given as a prize, in addition to the Lord's salvation, to the triumphant runner of the race—1 Cor. 9:25:
 - 1. This prize is neither of grace nor by faith as salvation is (Eph. 2:8) but of righteousness through works—Matt. 16:27; Rev. 22:12; 2 Cor. 5:10.
 - 2. The crown of righteousness will be awarded not according to the grace of the Lord but according to His righteousness, and the One who awards it will be the Lord as the righteous Judge.
 - 3. The crown of righteousness, of which Paul was assured, is an incentive to the inoculator to overcome the degradation of the church—Rev. 2:7.
- B. The crown of righteousness is a reward that will be given to all who love the Lord's appearing—2 Tim. 4:8:
 - 1. The Lord's appearing, His coming back, is a warning, an encouragement, and an incentive to us—Matt. 24:42.
 - 2. We should love the Lord's appearing and look forward to it with earnest expectation and joy—Titus 2:13.
 - 3. Loving the Lord's appearing is in contrast to loving the present age, the world now before us—2 Tim. 4:10.
 - 4. If we love the Lord's appearing, we will take sides with Him, not with the world, and fight for His interests—Matt. 6:9-10; James 4:4.

- II. "The Lord will deliver me from every evil work and will save me into His heavenly kingdom, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen"—2 Tim. 4:18:**

- A. The heavenly kingdom, which equals the crown of righteousness, is the kingdom of our Father (Matt. 13:43), the kingdom of the Father (26:29), the kingdom of Christ and of God (Eph. 5:5), and the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 1:11), which will be a reward to the overcoming saints—Rev. 20:4.
- B. The overcoming believers will participate in the heavenly kingdom, the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens—Matt. 7:21:
 - 1. As the righteous, the sons of the kingdom, the overcomers will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father—13:43.
 - 2. In the heavenly kingdom the overcomers will drink the cup of the new covenant anew with their Lord—26:29.
 - 3. In the kingdom of their Father the overcoming believers will feast with the Old Testament overcomers—8:11.
 - 4. To the overcomers the heavenly kingdom will be a joyful inheritance—1 Cor. 6:9-10.

5. In the heavenly kingdom the overcomers will inherit eternal life and thereby have a fuller enjoyment of the divine life—Luke 18:29-30.
 6. In the heavenly kingdom the overcomers will enter into the Lord's joy and thus gain their soul, save their soul, and enjoy the salvation of their soul —Matt. 10:39; 16:25-26; 25:21, 23; Luke 9:24; Heb. 10:39; 1 Pet. 1:5.
 7. In the heavenly kingdom the overcoming believers will reign with Christ—Rev. 20:4.
 8. In the heavenly kingdom the overcomers will rule over the nations—2:26-27.
 9. In the heavenly kingdom the overcomers will rule over all the possessions of the Lord—Matt. 24:47.
- C. To receive the reward of the heavenly kingdom is to have the uttermost enjoyment of Christ in a particular way; this special portion will be the prize to His faithful followers—25:21, 23; Phil. 3:14; Rev. 17:14.

III. “The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you”—2 Tim. 4:22:

- A. The Lord is with our spirit that we may enjoy Him as our empowering grace and carry out God's economy through His indwelling Spirit and equipping word for the building up of the church—1 Tim. 4:6-7; 2 Tim. 1:6-7; 2:1; 1:14; 3:16-17:
- B. Second Timothy begins with our God-given spirit fanned into flame and ends with the Lord being with our spirit to be our empowering grace as the unsearchably rich capital of our Christian life and church life—1:6-7; 4:22; Eph. 2:7; 3:8.
- C. Second Timothy begins with the wonderful Christ as our saving grace, continues with Him as our empowering grace, and ends with Him as our ever-present grace—1:9-10; 2:1; 4:22.
- D. Grace is the circulating Triune God working, flowing, communicating, transporting, transmitting, and dispensing all that He is into us for our enjoyment; the entire church life depends on grace as the circulation of the Divine Trinity within us —13:14; 1 Pet. 5:10; cf. Heb. 12:28a.