



# CITY CHAPEL SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

## LEADERSHIP SCHOOL LESSON 3 THE GOAL OF LEADERSHIP

<sup>3</sup> *Those who are [spiritually] wise will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and **those who lead many to righteousness**, [will shine] like the stars forever and ever. Daniel 12:3*

### INTRODUCTION

The definition of a Leader within the Kingdom was clearly outlined in the last session. If we are to begin with the end in mind, then this lesson will help us do that. Athletes enter the Olympic games with the end goal of a Medal in mind. Women endure the hardship of labour because of the promised joy of a baby. Students enrol in rigorous university programs with the aim of obtaining a degree. The promise makes the process worthwhile. The prize justifies the price. Everyone is a MINISTER and a LEADER in the Kingdom, in one capacity or the other. We are called to help people discover God and His agenda for their lives.

In Jesus we see this principle modelled in His sacrifice on the Cross:

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking unto Jesus, the <sup>[a]</sup>author and <sup>[b]</sup>finisher of our faith, **who for the joy that was set before Him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.  
Hebrews 12:1-2*

In the Kingdom of God there is a reward principle that should act as a goal and incentive for everyone involved with leading others. Those who are 'Leaders' are lights that help others to see and walk the path of Life. "...**those who lead many to righteousness**, [will shine] like the stars forever and ever." Please note that the light bearers are not church leaders, pastors etc but everyone who glorifies God and shows others the Way.

<sup>14</sup> *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.  
Matthew 5:14-16*

<sup>10</sup> ***Just as each one of you has received a special gift** [a spiritual talent, an ability graciously given by God], employ it in serving one another as [is appropriate for] good stewards of God's multi-faceted grace [faithfully using the diverse, varied gifts and abilities granted to Christians by God's unmerited favour].  
1Peter 4:10*



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### THE CROWNS

Let us now examine the New Testament awards principle of Crowns. They are mentioned in five categories even though there may be overlapping application of their meaning. There are five heavenly crowns mentioned in the New Testament that will be awarded to believers. They are the Imperishable Crown, the Crown of Rejoicing, the Crown of Righteousness, the Crown of Glory, and the Crown of Life.

The Greek word translated ***crowns*** is *stephanos* and means a mark of royalty, wreath or garland given as a prize to victors in public games, the eternal blessedness which will be given as a prize to the genuine servants of God. Used during the ancient Greek games, it referred to a wreath or garland of leaves placed on a victor's head as a reward for winning an athletic contest. As such, this word is used figuratively in the New Testament of the rewards of Heaven God promises those who are faithful.

#### The Imperishable Crown

*Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate [disciplined] in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an **imperishable crown**.*

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 NKJV.

Paul is urging all the Believers in the Corinthian church to live out their faith with dedication and focus. That they should not be complacent but finish their life race well. There is a certain relinquishing of responsibility with many in the local churches, to the Pastors and Church leaders. The Scriptures urge everyone to run the race of faith with the goal of obtaining a prize!

The things of this life and realm is subject to decay and will perish or pass away. We are to invest in the treasures of heaven which last forever. These types of messages are not preached enough for people to grasp the reality of the Heavenly realm. However, we need to become Heavenly minded once again whilst remaining Earthly relevant.

#### The Crown of Rejoicing

For what is our hope, or joy, or **crowns of rejoicing**? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

1 Thessalonians 2:19

The Lord gave me a phrase many years ago that I have not forgotten. "people are the containers that carry your rewards to Heaven and Eternity". Meaning that the evidence of fruitfulness and rewards in heaven are people. Paul is saying here that the people of Thessalonica whom he preached to and became Believers will be his 'crown of rejoicing' in the Presence of the Lord. Who will be in Heaven because of you? We thank God for the house, the marriage, the career and the business but how much of these are translating into eternal fruit?



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## The Crown of Righteousness

Finally, there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also **to all** who have loved His appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8

<sup>6</sup> For I am already being <sup>[a]</sup> poured out as a drink offering, and the time of <sup>[b]</sup> my departure [from this world] is at hand and I will soon go free. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good and worthy and noble fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith [firmly guarding the gospel against error]. <sup>8</sup> In the future there is reserved for me the [victor's] **crown of righteousness** [for being right with God and doing right], which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that [great] day—and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved and longed for and welcomed His appearing.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 AMP.

In living out our lives, we must fight the good fight of faith. There will be ups and downs, but we must stay in the battle with a focus on the end and the joyous, glorious finish line. We inherit this crown through the righteousness of Christ, which is what gives us a right to it, and without which it cannot be obtained.

Through our enduring discouragements, persecutions, sufferings, or even death, we know assuredly our reward is with Christ in eternity. This crown is not for those who depend upon their own sense of righteousness or of their own works. Such an attitude breeds only arrogance and pride, not a longing, a fervent desire to be with the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> But [we are different, because] our citizenship is in heaven. And from there **we eagerly await** [the coming of] the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup> who, by exerting that power which enables Him even to subject everything to Himself, will [not only] transform [but completely refashion] our earthly bodies so that they will be like His glorious, resurrected body.

Philippians 3:20

## The Crown of Glory

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. 1 Peter 5:4

The Early Church lived with this constant expectation of the Coming Of Christ. This eagerness for His return as somewhat left the consciousness of many contemporary Believers. This is not a weird or wacky detachment from society but a healthy balanced approach to faith and life. As we look up to the Heavens we engage with Earthly responsibilities.

Even though Peter is addressing the elders, we must also remember that the crown will be awarded to all those who long for or love His appearing. This word “glory” is an interesting word referring to the very nature of God and His actions. It entails His great splendour and brightness.

It also recognizes that believers are incredibly blessed to enter the kingdom, into the very likeness of Christ Himself. For as Paul so eloquently put it, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”



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**The Crown of Life**

*Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

*Revelation 2:10*

This crown is for all believers, but is especially dear to those who endure sufferings, who bravely confront persecution for Jesus, even to the point of death. In Scripture the word “life” is often used to show a relationship that is right with God. It was Jesus who said, “I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly”.

Just as things such as air, food, and water are vital for our physical lives, Jesus provides us what is required for our spiritual lives. He is the One who provides “living water.” He is the “bread of life” . We know that our earthly lives will end. But we have the amazing promise that comes only to those who come to God through Jesus: “And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life”.

James tells us that this crown of life is for all those who love God. The question then is how do we demonstrate our love for God? The apostle John answers this for us: “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome “As His children we must keep His commandments, obeying Him, always remaining faithful. So, as we endure the inevitable trials, pains, heartaches, and tribulations—as long as we live—may we ever move forward, always “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” and receive the crown of life that awaits us.

**Mission For The Week**

Read Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 and identify all the rewards and promises to the OVERCOMER.