

### **Lesson: CROWN OF LIFE**

Two Greek words for crowns are used in the Bible: *diadema and stephanos*.

- **Diadema** refers to a crown, which a king would wear (Rev.19:12). It was a symbol of royalty.
- **Stephanos** refers to a crown, which a champion athlete would wear (2 Tim.2:5). It was a symbol of victory.

The stephanos victor crown was given to winners of the following four Greek athlete games.

- Olympian – crown of wild olives
- Nemean – crown of parsley
- Pythian – crown of laurel
- Isthmian – crown of pine

The following special rewards and recognition were given along with these four crowns.

- Plaque of victor and game was placed on hometown wall.
- Chariot parade for victor
- Ode written about victory
- Statue of victor was placed in center of town.
- Life time pass to game
- Given money
- Victor's children were given free education.
- Exempt from taxes

**This lesson will study seven aspects of crowns awarded church age believers and especially the CROWN OF LIFE.**

- 1. The stephanos victor crown teaches phase III status blessings associated with crowns offered to church age believers (1 Cor.3:10-15).**
- 2. The victor's crown along with rewards will be awarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ (Rom.14:10-12; 2 Cor.5:10).**

The victor's crown will be the reflected glory of faithful service to Jesus Christ in phase II in phase III (1 Pet.4:11). They are won in phase II and can never be lost in phase III (Rev.3:11; 4:10).

The victor's crown will last forever and will never fade away (1 Cor.9:25-27; 1 Pet.5:4).

- 3. Every church age believer is in the spiritual race of the angelic conflict on earth (1 Cor.9:24-27; 2 Tim.2:5; Heb.12:1-3; Phil.3:13-14).**

Training for race – strict and requiring self-discipline (10 months rigid training; strict diet)

Race – all run and competitive for prize

Prize – everlasting victor crown

**4. What crown did the world place on Jesus head for the race of the cross? \_\_\_\_\_**

It was a stephanos crown (Matt.27:29). It represented the curse of Adam's original sin (AOS) (Gen.3:18).

What crown will God give Jesus for winning the race of the cross? \_\_\_\_\_ It will be the diadema crown (Rev.19:12).

**5. The book of Revelation mentions 24 worshiping elders surrounding the throne of Jesus Christ in heaven wearing stephanos victor crowns of gold (Rev.4:4,9-11; 5:5-14; 7:11-17; 11:16-18; 14:3; 19:4).**

**6. We will mention three victor crowns that will be awarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ.**

THE GLORY – *tes doxa* - (1 Pet.5:1-4) – faithful service of spiritually gifted communicators

THE RIGHTEOUS – *tes dikaiosune* – (2 Tim.4:7-8) – faithfully reaching and maintaining spiritual maturity until dying grace.

THE LIFE – *tes zoe* – (James 1:12; Rev.2: 10) – faithful suffering for Christ unto dying grace.

**7. Evangelists who preach a grace gospel get a special crown in phase II called the crown of exultation  
(1 Thess.2:19-20; Phil.4:1; Rom.1:16; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Eph.2:8-9).**

It was the stephanos victor crown of exultation or boasting (kauchesis).