

# **YOUR FUTURE IN CHRIST #3**

## *Death is the beginning of a fantastic adventure*

Last week we learned that:

### **I WILL GET MY NEW BODY AT THE RAPTURE**

### **MY NEW BODY WILL BE AWESOME**

After receiving your new body, the Lord Jesus will take all of us back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven (God's home). At this point, each one of us will meet with Jesus.

The Apostle Paul teaches this in 2 Corinthians 5:9-10.<sup>1</sup>

After we receive our new bodies, you and I will meet with Jesus to give account of our service for Him in this life.

### **I WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF MY SERVICE TO JESUS**

Your meeting with Jesus will not be a judgment for your sins. Your evil attitudes and actions have already been judged, condemned and punished. Jesus bore your sins in His body on the cross. God the Father poured out His righteous wrath on Jesus rather than on you because Jesus died in your place. Your sins, past, present and future, are all paid for. Your meeting with Jesus will not be a judgment for your sins.

Your meeting with Jesus will be about your service for Him in this life.

This is the point of Jesus' parable recorded in Matthew 25:14-30.

The point of this parable is that when Jesus returns He will reward those who faithfully used His resources to bring Him a profit and He will rebuke those who failed to use His resources to bring Him a profit.

How we live as believers has eternal ramifications. We do not work for our salvation; we rely on the works of Jesus Christ. But as Paul writes, we are saved by grace through faith to do works which God has prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Jesus loves us unconditionally whether He rewards or rebukes us. But there will be pain and loss if we have not lived for Jesus in this life. Only those who have served the Kingdom will fully share in Jesus' joy when He comes in His Kingdom.

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.

Those who have been faithful and obedient to serve in this life prove themselves trustworthy to exercise authority in the Messianic Kingdom. As we see in the parable, faithful service will be rewarded, but slothfulness will be rebuked.

**AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST, JESUS WILL GIVE ME MY DUE:  
REWARD FOR FAITHFULNESS; REBUKE FOR SLOTHFULNESS.**

Those rewards come in the form of crowns. Crowns come with authority to rule. There are five crowns revealed in the New Testament. These crowns come with authority to rule in the Messianic Kingdom. The five crowns are listed in your footnotes along with a passage reference and definition.<sup>2</sup>

As we see, our service for Christ matters both now and for the future. Consider these things: are you serving according to your spiritual gifts? Are you being rich towards the Lord? Are you praying for the salvation of the lost and the transformation of the saved? Are you using your energy and resources to serve others?

May we live now in such a way that we enter fully into the joy of our Master and Savior, Jesus Christ!

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<sup>2</sup> ***The Imperishable Crown*** (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

This crown is given to those believers who exercise self-control and gain victory over the old man.

***The Crown of Boasting*** (1 Thessalonians 2:17-19)

This crown is for those who do the work of evangelism and win souls for Jesus.

***The Crown of Righteousness*** (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

This crown is for those who have kept the faith doctrinally and morally in spite of adversity.

***The Crown of Life*** (James 1:12, Revelation 2:10)

This crown is for those who endure trials and martyrdom.

***The Crown of Glory*** (1 Peter 5:2-4)

This crown is for Elders who faithfully care for the church.