

The Eternal Crown

(From *Voice of Truth International*)

An old Roman soldier retired after 40 years of service: 10 as a private and 30 years as an officer. He had fought 123 battles, and been wounded 45 times. He had been awarded 14 civic crowns for saving the life of a Roman citizen; 3 mural crowns for being the first to climb the breach and 8 golden crowns for retrieving the standard of a Roman legion from the hands of the enemy. He also had 83 golden chains, 60 bracelets, 18 golden spears and 23 horse trappings, the spoils of war.

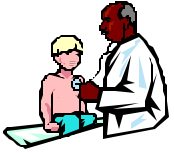
Faithfulness is always rewarded. As a Christian who has been faithful to the Lord, your rewards will far exceed those of the Roman soldier. His were temporal, yours are eternal. Notice what the Bible says about your reward:

- 1) **It is a crown of righteousness:** "I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: 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." (2 Timothy 4:7-8)
- 2) **It is a crown of life:** "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." (James 1:12); "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." (Rev. 2:10)
- 3) **It is a crown of joy:** "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?" (1 Thess. 2:19)
- 4) **It is an incorruptible crown:** "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 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." (1 Cor. 9:24-25)
- 5) **It is an enduring substance:** "For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance." (Heb. 10:34)

God's reward is the best. It is an eternal motivation for building positive life (1 Cor. 15:58). Grow in the Lord. Continue steadfastly in Bible reading and prayer. Grow in faith and faithfulness, and in bearing fruit to Him, for the rewards are out of this world. – John R. Vaughn

Sick

Continue to remember in prayer: Marguerite Charles, Lyn Anderson, Martha Keith, Miriam Majors, Betty Jenkins, WJ Wood, Cynthia Angelotti, Roy Doss, Jonnie Charles, Jim McCray, Sandra Wood, Peggy Paxton, Adrain Wade, Ed Hansberry, Austin Wilson, Beulah Wright.



Luke Guard continues to recover at FHU.

Buddy Martin began his stem cell procedure last week. His address is in paper bulletin

Jim McCray, Evelyn White's brother, is in LGH,

Sympathy is extended to Jo Ann Edwards in the death of her grand mother, Edna Stricklin.

Happy Birthday this week to:



Charmaine Bush—5/2

APRIL ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS:



Kashi Go Lean cereal, All Bran Yogurt Bites cereal, regular nonmicrowave popcorn. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!

Congratulations to Nathan Anderson and Ellen McDonal. They will be married on June 27 in Huntsville, AL. The happy couple will be here on May 23 when we will be having a Wedding Shower Brunch at 10 in the fellowship hall. They are registered at Target, Bed, Bath and Beyond and Nathan is registered at Sears. His bride would appreciate Nathan receiving some guy gifts from Sears.



Upcoming Events:

Gospel Meeting chores and Feed the Preacher itineraries will be posted next week.



Teens

Have you contacted Luke yet? Email at luket-guard@gmail.com or call him XXX-XXX-XXXX. Let him know what you want to study and what you want to do!!



WOW

Next WOW meeting will be on Tuesday, May 12, at 10:30.

Virginia Christian Camp will be on June 21-27 and will be here before you know it. Plans are being made for another great year at camp!

Applications are in the foyer. Deadline is May 15 so hurry and get your application sent to Curtis!!



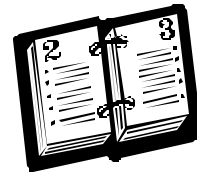
Donation Boxes located in the foyer!!

Seven Hills Church will be having a Girls Retreat and Lock In on June 26 & 27. Details are located on the board.

Directory Update:

Susan Mountcastle email address:

All upcoming events for the months of May & June are needed in the office by Wednesday evening, April 29.



For Your Information

Weekly Reminders

DISCOVERY CLUB

Discovery Club Meeting will be today at 4pm in the fellowship room. Come see what the Discovery Club is discovering about "Visiting God's Animal Park - God's design of ants to zebras." Club will be making plans for planting of the Discovery Garden in our field.

HOSTESS MEETING

All Hostesses for E@WS please meet in the large classroom at 4:30 today. We will be finalizing plans and picking out table locations. Melissa Rogers will be filling in for Jo Ann.

TURN, TURN, TURN

The next T3 planners meeting will be on May 3 at 4:30.

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Leadership Workshop at West Side, May 15 & 16, with William Woodson and Tom Holland. These sessions are for both men and women. Make your plans to be here to hear both of these great men of God. (Brother Woodson will also be teaching the Mens Leadership class and preaching to us on Sunday, May 17.) Flyers with the details are located in the foyer.

GOSPEL MEETING

West Side's Spring Gospel Meeting will be May 24-27 with Wade Webster, of Southaven, MS. Make your plans to be here and be praying and preparing for this effort. Pick up a flyer today from the foyer.

GRADUATION BANQUET

Michelle Earnhart is planning our graduation banquet for June 7. She is looking for volunteers to help with this luncheon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 17—Teachers Workshop with April Meachum and Teah McWhorter.

Special Thanks to the following for filling in while Eddy was away:

Jerry Anderson, Don Pettit, Jeff Durham, Josh Whitlow, Sean Simms, and Ethan Rogers.

Congrats to Ainsley Herra, granddaughter of Connie Herra and great granddaughter of Marguerite Charles for placing 2nd in PBS Young Writers and Illustrators.

Prayer list:

Marguerite Charles
Lyn Anderson
Martha Keith
Miriam Majors
Betty Jenkins
WJ Wood
Cynthia Angelotti
Roy Doss
Jonnie Charles
Jim McCray
Sandra Wood
Peggy Paxton
Larry Phillips
Kathleen Soliday
Austin Wilson
Ed Hansberry
Adrian Wade
Beulah Wright
Oscar Keplinger
Luke Guard

Activities:

Discovery Club—4/26
E@WS hostess meet—4/26



May 2009

“If Any Man” (9)

Announcements	Mike Durham
Song Leader (AM)	Eric Earnhart
Opening Prayer (AM)	
5/3	Collin Gregory
5/10	Glen Hartman
5/17	Bob Martin
5/24	Charlie Gwaltney
5/31	Jeff Durham
Preside at Communion	Charlie Maness
Serve Table	Mark Brooks Bradford Durham Gene Benefield Norris Gearhart
Closing Prayer	
5/3	Herb Baker
5/10	Barry White
5/17	Jeremy White
5/24	Mitch Jearls
5/31	Roger Mays
Song Leader (PM)	David Brown
Opening Prayer (PM)	
5/3	Garrett Durham
5/10	Richard Simms
5/17	Jim Cooke
5/24	Jerry Anderson
5/31	Danny Guard
Scripture Reader	Sam Valentine
Closing Prayer (PM)	
5/3	Tom Rogers
5/10	Nathan Pelfrey
5/17	Charlie Puckett
5/24	Ethan Rogers
5/31	Paul Mays
Serve Table (PM)	Jim & Jimmy Harrington
Song Leader (Wed)	Tom Rogers
Prayer (Wed)	
5/6	Jason Oldham
5/13	Bob Garby
5/20	Cameron Brown
5/27	Shawn Simms
Open/Close Bldg Greeters	Bob Garby Argabright/Cook
Nursery Attend	Bonnie Mellon S. Mountcastle
Ushers	Bob Garby Curtis Oakes
Handouts	Jeff, Caleb & Tanner Reed

Alternates	Lyn Shrader
Prepare communion	
	Grace Myers Sandra Neighbors
Cards & Pencils	Noah & Garrett Laplante

Last weeks attendance 4/19&22/09

Bible Class—122 Worship Service—151
Sunday Eve.—151 Wednesday Eve.—126
Contribution—\$5836

The phrase “if any man” appears 62 times in the New Testament. It provides some interesting and profitable studies for us. We continue our look at this phrase and its significance.

Paul’s statement to the Corinthians provides our next study of this phrase. He stated, “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now *if any man* build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 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. *If any man's* work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. *If any man's* work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? *If any man* defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” (I Cor. 3:11-17).

Verses 11-16 of this text reveal that Christ is the foundation of His temple (the church) and that those who labor for His Cause build upon Him as that foundation. Thus, all who teach the gospel (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15, 16) and assist in converting men to Christ will have their “works” (their converts) “tried by fire” (tested regarding their faith). Some converts will be like stubble, hay and wood- unwilling to withstand in the fiery trials of life. Others will be like gold, silver and precious stones- willing and able to bear the burdens that godly living would bring. As is likewise demonstrated in the parable of the sower (Lk. 8:4-15), not all those who begin the Christian journey will end it well. However, even though one’s convert may fall away and ultimately be lost, the teacher’s soul is not affected by the fallen one’s unfaithfulness (I Cor. 3:15).

Verse 17 reveals that defiling the temple of God (His church, as the context reveals) brings the anathema of God upon one. This was stated with the knowledge of the divisions that were present in the church at Corinth (cf. I Cor. 1:10-13). The Lord’s church today would do well to take heed to these stern statements regarding division and contention. For, as Paul stated, “*if any man* defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy.”

-Eddy

April 26, 2009

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