

**The End Times Series**  
**A Victorious Christian**  
**2 Cor 5.10-11**

**[How to win at the Bema of Christ (The Judgment Seat of Christ)]**

[Everyone likes to win. Some have been heard saying, “Second place is only the first loser.” No one really likes to come in second place, we all like to win.]

[So how do we win in this mortal life? How do we win as Christians?]

**A. [The First Thing Every Person Must Do To Win In Life,]**

**1. [One Must Be Saved, Born Again, Redeemed By The Blood Of The Lamb.]**

*[John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. ]*

*[Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. ]*

**B. [Five Things That Result In Christian Victory,]**

[The things that we, as the Children of God, need to do in order to experience victory at the Bema of Christ are not a mystery; they are revealed in the Word of God. They are revealed in the Crowns and Privileges given at the Beam of Christ.]

[There are two Greek words that are translated crown in English.]

- [The first is a Greek word that describes a Bestowed crown. That is the crown of royalty, that a King bestows upon his heir; whether he is worthy or not.]
- [The second is the Greek word **στέφανος** (gk) which is an **earned crown**. It is the type of crown awarded at the Greek Olympic Games. This is the type of crown described for each of the five crown mentioned in the New Testament.]

[Folks, there are awards that will be given at the Bema of Christ immediately following the Rapture of the Church. They are all earned rewards. If you will receive any reward you must earn it. How can you hope to earn something if you know nothing about it?]

### **Five Things That Result In Christian Victory,**

#### **1. Be Disciplined (1 Cor 9.25-27; Rev 3.5, 20-21) [- Purposeful, Tuned in, trained]**

1 Cor 9.25

- **[The Crown – The Incorruptible Crown]**

*[1 Corinthians 9:25-27 <sup>25</sup> 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.** <sup>26</sup> I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: <sup>27</sup> **But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection:** lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.]*

[There is only one way for any Christian to Master their Christian Life and that is for them **to discover the will of God for their life**. They only way you can ever discover the will of God for you is to find His will in **His revealing written Word**. The Word of God will teach you how to master your Christian life and lead you to earn the Incorruptible Crown.]

- **[The Privileges]**

Rev 3.2

#### **[The Church In Sardis – the Church with sin in its midst.]**

**[These Christians are called upon to be watchful!]**

*[Revelation 3:2 **Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain,** that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.]*

**[The sin in the church is revealed in,]**

*[Revelation 3:4-5 <sup>4</sup> Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. ]*

**[Therefore the Christians in the Church must struggle and strive to overcome the sinful conditions in the midst of this Church.]**

[The danger of sin in the Church is that sinners in the Church will normally corrupt the saints in the Church.]

**[Revelation 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. ]**

Rev 3.20

**[It will take the Word of God in the lives of these Christians to help them overcome the sin all around them. ]**

**[The Church OF THE Laodiceans – The Apostate Church – This is the rich, luxurious Church that is Lukewarm and Jesus is on the outside of this Church knocking to get in (Rev 3.20). They have literally kick Jesus right out of the Church.]**

**[Listen to the text, Jesus said,]**

**[Revelation 3:20-21** <sup>20</sup> *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.* <sup>21</sup> **To him that overcometh** will I grant to **sit with me in my throne**, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. ]

[Listen, the only way you will overcome over this apostate Church is to **be disciplined in the Word of God** so that you can identify this Church and its luke warmness. You are going to have to cleave to the perfectly preserved Word of God and let it stir the life of Christ into you.]

[People become lukewarm when the Word of God no longer forms them and stirs in them.]

[Are you mastering the Christian life? Or have you determined that somehow you have already arrived in your Christian Journey and you don't need the Word of God in your life anymore.]

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Five Things That Lead To Christian Victory,

1. Be Disciplined

[Are you striving to Master your Christian Life? There is a Crown and two privileges for **Mastering this Christian life.**]

2. Be **Dedicated** (Rev 2.10,12; 2 Tim 3.12) [-  
**Persevere, Endure.** Christians must be dedicated to the point of **total surrender** to the Lord Jesus Christ. The kind of surrender that will cause them to Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus even if they must face persecution for their faith.]

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Rev 2.10

- [The Crown – The Martyr’s Crown – The Crown of Life - Smyrna]

*[Revelation 2:10 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.** ]*

- [The Privilege]

Rev 3.12

[The Church in Philadelphia – This is the Church that kept God’s Word in the midst of a world that was explaining God’s Word away. They took God’s Word literally while many were allegorizing the Word of God, or treating God’s Word like a bunch of fairy tales. As they stood up for the Word of God they were severely persecuted for their faithful stand. Many lost their lives for the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.]

[To them our Lord says,]

*[Revelation 3:12 **Him that overcometh** will I **make a pillar in the temple of my God,** and he shall go no more out: **and I will write upon him the name of my God,** and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. ]*

[My brothers and sisters in Christ the New Testament promises persecution and trials to those who will live for the Lord Jesus Christ.]

**[2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. ]**

[There are great rewards promised to those who are willing to suffer while standing up joyfully for our Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God.]

3. **Be Devoted (2 Tim 4.5-8; Rev 2.7; Matt 22.37-38) [- Expect, Watch for the Rapture,**

2 Tim 4.5

**Desire watchful** – To be devoted is to love the Lord Jesus Christ and to long to be with Him. This is to watch for His soon appearing. **It is to have a sense of expectancy.**]

- [The Crown of Righteousness]

*[2 Timothy 4:5-7 <sup>5</sup> But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. <sup>6</sup> For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup> I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: ]*

*[2 Timothy 4:8 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.]*

[It is called a Crown of righteousness because the effect of the characteristics that win this crown is righteousness.]

[If you really believe that you will soon, if not imminently stand in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, that expectation will undeniably affect your life and choices. You will want to be found ready and faithful.]

Rev 2.7

- [The Privilege – The Church in Ephesus – This is the Church that lost its first love (Rev 2.4). Its devotion had foundered. To them our Lord said,]

*[Revelation 2:7 . . . To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. ]*

[So what does this mean for us today? It means that if we will overcome and be rewarded at the Bema of Christ we must cleave to our

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2. Be Dedicated - Surrendered

love for our Lord Jesus Christ. We must not let our devotion grow cool and heartless.]

**[What does a devoted Christian look like?**

**A devoted Christian is one who is in love with the Lord Jesus Christ.** The first and greatest commandment is,]

*[Matthew 22:37-38 <sup>37</sup> Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment. ]*

[We must love the Lord Jesus Christ, Almighty God, with intensity and sincerity. We must be careful to never let that love diminish.]

**[A Christian in love with Christ will be a Christian who,]**

- [Wants to do those things that please Jesus.]
- [Wants to be around those who love Jesus.]
- [Wants to hear Jesus say, “Well done my good and faithful steward.”]

[If you will receive these rewards and the Bema of Christ you must be devoted to our Lord Jesus Christ.]

**4. Be Diplomatic (2 Cor 5.20; 1 Thess 2.19-20; Rev 2.11) [– This is to Evangelize or Witness for our Lord.]**

1 Thes 2.19

[The New Testament says,]

*[2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then we are **ambassadors for Christ**, . . .]*

**[In the days of the Bible a kings diplomats were his children.** We are the children of God through our Lord Jesus Christ and hence we are His kingdoms diplomats. Our Heavenly Father sends us out into this dark and lost world to bring wayward souls into His glorious kingdom.]

**[This is what it means to be a Soul-Winner or a witness for our Lord Jesus Christ, we are His diplomats. ]**

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[Therefore, if we would be effective soul-winners then we must be effective diplomats. Our ability to win the lost is not just about what we say it is also about how we say things and how we live our lives.]

- [The Crown – Soul-Winners Crown]

*[1 Thessalonians 2:19-20<sup>19</sup> 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?<sup>20</sup> For ye are our glory and joy. ]*

[The only way anyone you know can be in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ at His coming is for them to be saved. Their greatest way they will be your joy in our Lord's presence will be if you helped them get there.]

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[Hence the Crown of Rejoicing is the Soul-Winners Crown.]

Rev 2.11

- [The Privilege (Rev 2.11) – The Overcomer – The Church in Smyrna, The Persecuted Church, persecuted for their testimony. They proclaimed the Gospel of Christ even at the cost of their lives.]

*[Revelation 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. ]*

[How can any Christian be hurt of the second death? We will not be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment, a judgment unto condemnation. So how can any Christian be hurt of the second death?]

[Be sure that we will all be present at the Great White Throne for all of creation surrenders to this throne of judgment when it is set up. The lost will be judged here and then cast into the lake of fire. The saved will stand as a glorious mighty throng loudly declaring the glorious grace of God given to all who would receive it.]

[The lost will come one-by-one and they will be confronted with their sins and rebellion against God. As they are judged we will look on. Then we will see someone we know and they will see us and may declare. “I know you, you were my neighbor.” What if they say,

**“Why didn’t you ever tell me about the Lord Jesus Christ?”** If you had never been a witness, then that will be a horribly painful confrontation for you Christian. That is the only way you can be touched by the second death.]

[If you do not want to face such a confrontation, then you had better do three things and do it now!]

- 1) [Purpose to be a Soul-Winner]
- 2) [Plan to be a Soul-Winner – Make your preparations.]
- 3) [Pursue the lost around you – Be Diplomatic.]

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[Are you a child of God? Will you conduct yourself as a Child of God? Then you must see God as your Heavenly Father and know that your Lord Jesus Christ has commissioned you to go and reach the world around you.]

[You must go heralding the Word of God and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with the express purpose of reaching the lost whom our Lord loves and seeks to save.]

5. **Be Discipled (1 Pet 5.2-4)** [– This is to be a student in our Lord’s Kingdom.

1 Pet 5.2-4

If you will be a student or disciple then you must have a teacher, hence Pastors are a gift given by God to the Church.]

- [The Crown – The Pastor’s Crown – The Discipled’s Crown.]

*[1 Peter 5:2-4<sup>2</sup> Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; <sup>3</sup> Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. ]*

[There is a special Crown given to those who would Pastor’s to the people of God.]

[From a layman’s point of view this Crown teaches every Christian that they ought to be a good student in our Lord’s kingdom. You should desire to be in a good Bible believing Church under the teaching of a God fearing Pastor.

Hence this is to be in Church and serving in our Lord's Kingdom in your local Church.]

[Are you ready to stand at the Bema of Christ?]

[Will you be victorious when you stand there immediately following the Rapture?]

CrossRoads Baptist Church, January 4, 2015

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- 5. Be Discipled**