

THE ARMOR OF GOD **“The Rewards of Service”**

THE PAULINE PATTERN-

2 Tim 4:7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. NIV

As we complete our examination of the Christian soldier, let us look at the Apostle Paul, for he fought a good fight and kept the faith.

1 Cor 9:7a “Who serves as a soldier at his own expense?” NIV

What are some ways in which soldiers are paid?

- Life – It is always good to come out on the other side of your term of service alive.
- Salary – Our daily pay for our daily work.
- Booty or spoil – Riches and supplies confiscated from the defeated enemy.
- Advancement or promotion – Receiving added responsibility for faithful service.
- Awards – Special recognition for extraordinary service and action (medals).
- Retirement pay – Wages that continue after a life-term of service.

Life-

To be breathing is a privilege granted to us by God (Acts 17:25; Isa 42:5). Eternal life is the gift of God and death is the wages of sin.

Rom 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. NIV

Contrasts

Wages	Gift
Sin	God
Death	Eternal life

The major benefit of our service as soldiers is that we have no need to fear death in the conflict. God has given us eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Heb 2:14-15

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—

15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. NIV

Jesus saved us from sin, the binding tool of the enemy that works death in our lives. We are now bound to God and free to offer up our lives to Him because we accepted His life for us.

Mark 8:35-38

35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.

- 36 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?
37 Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?
38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." NIV

John 12:25-26

- 25 The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.
26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. NIV

God's ways are not our ways. When speaking in terms of spiritual warfare, we may be tempted to think in terms of General Patton (as portrayed by George C. Scott) in his "blood-and-guts" speech: "Your job as a soldier is not to die for your country. Your job is to make that other sorry _ _ _ _ die for his!" Though this is very true in physical combat, such is not necessarily the case in spiritual combat. When we accepted Jesus' life sacrifice for us, our life was forfeit. If we are to be disciples of Jesus (and all good soldiers are), we need to consider ourselves dead to this life and alive to God.

Salary-

Luke 3:14

Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely-be content with your pay." NIV

Our English word "salary" comes from the Latin salarium, which was money given to Roman soldiers to buy salt. We need to be content with our pay, and we need to be salted.

Mark 9:49-50

- 49 Everyone will be salted with fire.
50 "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other." NIV

Barnes' Notes-

The word "fire," here, therefore denotes self-denials, sacrifices, trials, in keeping ourselves from the gratification of the flesh. As if he had said, "Look at the sacrifice on the altar. It is an offering to God, about to be presented to him. It is sprinkled with "salt, emblematic of PURITY, of PRESERVATION and of fitting it, therefore, for a sacrifice." So "you" are devoted to God. You are sacrifices, victims, offerings to him in his service. To make you "acceptable" offerings, every thing must be done to "preserve" you from sin and to "purify" you. Self-denials, subduing the lusts, enduring trials, removing offences, are the proper "preservatives" in the service of God. Doing this, you will be acceptable offerings and be saved; without this, you will be "unfit" for his eternal service and will be lost."

As Luke 3:14 says, we need to be content with our pay. Being content offers us a great bulwark and defense against the sin of ungratefulness (among others). When we are content, strife is cut off at the knees.

John 14:8-11

8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. NIV

Knowing the Lord Jesus Christ should suffice us in life. We are built with an innate desire to see the Father. This craving is satisfied in our relationship with Jesus. To see Him is to see the Father. To know Him is to know the Father.

1 Tim 6:6-8

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. NIV

Godliness is the Greek word eusebeia, which means a real, true, vital, spiritual relationship with God. It is the opposite of the Greek word threskia, which means religion in all its worldly sense: all form and no substance. A real relationship with God (which is impossible outside of the relationship with Jesus Christ) coupled with an attitude of contentment is great gain for us in our Christian walk. Do you have food and clothing? Then don't complain. Are you lacking any of these things? Then don't complain, pray!

Heb 13:5-6

5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" NIV

2 Cor 12:7-10

7 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. NIV

Booty or spoils of war-

2 Cor 11:6-8

6 I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge. We have made this perfectly clear to you in every way.

7 Was it a sin for me to lower myself in order to elevate you by preaching the gospel of God to you free of charge?

8 I robbed other churches by receiving support from them so as to serve you. NIV

Luke 11:20-23

20 But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

21 "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe.

22 But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.

23 "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters. NIV

Matt 12:29-30

29 "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house.

30 "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. NIV

Barnes' Notes-

Verse 29. [Or else ...] The Saviour makes use of a new illustration to confute the Pharisees, drawn from breaking into a house. A man could not break into the house of a strong man and take his property unless he had rendered the man himself helpless. If he had taken his goods, it would therefore be sufficient proof that he had bound the man. So I, says he, have taken this "property-this possessed person"-from the dominion of Satan. It is clear proof that I have subdued "Satan himself," the "strong" being that had him in possession. The words "or else" mean "or how:" "How, or in what way, can one, etc."

[Spoil his goods] The word "spoil" commonly means, now, to corrupt, injure, or destroy. Here it means "to plunder," to take with violence, as it commonly does in the Bible. See Col 2:8,15; Ex 3:22.

Verse 30. [He that is not with me ...] In addition to his other arguments, Jesus urges this general principle, that there can be but two parties in the universe. If anyone did not act WITH him, he was against him. If he gathered not with him, he scattered. This is taken from the practice of persons in harvest. He that did not gather with him, or "aid" him, scattered abroad, or opposed him. The application of this was, "As I have not united with Satan, but opposed him, there can be no league between us." The charge, therefore, is a false one.

I think that a strong contextual argument could be made for the fact that the "gathering" the Lord is referring to is the "spoiling" of the strong man. It is a harvest. Those gathered to God in Christ have been taken away from the devil.

Col 2:15

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. NIV

In 2 Corinthians 11, Paul says that he took money from Macedonia to minister to the church at Corinth.

Acts 16:6-10

6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.

7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.

8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.

9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. NIV

The Lord Jesus was in charge of the campaign, directing the journey in the way it should go. Paul received the call to go into the region of Macedonia in a dream.

Acts 16:11-15 Paul, Timothy, Silas, and Luke travel to Philippi. Lydia is converted.

Acts 16:16-24 NIV

16 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.

17 This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved."

18 She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

19 When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities.

20 They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar

21 by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

22 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten.

23 After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.

24 Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Acts 16:25-40 Paul and Silas sang hymns and were miraculously set free. Jailer and family are saved.

Acts 17:1-9 Paul and Silas go to Thessalonica. Paul ministers in the synagogue for three weeks. The Jews cause trouble and have them run out of town.

Acts 17:10-14 Paul and Silas go to Berea and are joined by Timothy. The Jews of Thessalonica carry their persecution to Berea. Paul moves on to Athens.

What's going on here? Didn't the Lord give Paul a vision to go to Macedonia? He went to Philippi and got put in prison. He went to Thessalonica and one of the converts gets hauled out of his house and accused before the magistrates. He goes to Berea and the Thessalonian Jews incite the Bereans to riot. Finally, the brothers send Paul out of the region. He goes to Athens in the province of Achaia. Had he followed the Lord's direction? Yes. He left behind in Macedonia at least two churches, one in Philippi, one in Thessalonica, and possibly a third in Berea.

Acts 17:16-34 Paul makes his proclamation on Mars Hill and has some measure of success.

Acts 18:1-4

1 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

2 There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them,

3 and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.

4 Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. NIV

At Corinth, Paul joins up with Aquila and Priscilla and they work together. At this point, Paul is working his six days a week and reasoning every Sabbath in the synagogue.

Acts 18:5

When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. NIV

Here we see the "robbing" of the Macedonian churches. Prior to the arrival of Silas and Timothy, Paul worked at tent making. When they got to him at Corinth, he was able to devote himself exclusively to the ministry.

Acts 18:6-11

6 But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

7 Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God.

8 Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

9 One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.

10 For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."

11 So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God. NIV

This word of the Lord must have been of great comfort to Paul. He had been literally chased out of Macedonia and had a close call in Athens. When trouble began brewing in Corinth, one can well imagine what he thought was coming. The Lord comforted him and let him know to

proceed. Paul lived with the knowledge of the things he must suffer for the Lord's sake (Acts 9:16). To be told that there would be a season of respite in regard to persecution must have been very comforting.

Heb 7:1-4

- 1 This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him,
- 2 and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace."
- 3 Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever.
- 4 Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! NIV

This event referred to in Hebrews is recorded in Genesis 14. Not only is it the first account of a believer's response to aggression (serving as a pattern of our response to spiritual aggression), it is also the first mention of tithing in Scripture. The tithe that Abraham offered up came from the spoils of war he took from the kings of Elam, Goiim, Shinar, and Ellasar. This tithe was offered up to Melchizedek, the priest-king archetype of Jesus in the Old Testament.

When we advance the cause of the kingdom of God in spiritual warfare, captives are set free just as Lot was rescued from captivity. These ex-captives then begin to offer up their tithes to the Lord, further funding the battle and facilitating the advancement of the kingdom of God.

Advancement and promotion-

Luke 16:10-12

- 10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.
- 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?
- 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? NIV

1 Cor 12:28

And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. NIV

Eph 2:19-20

- 19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,
- 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. NIV

It is not a hierarchy of value or importance. 1 Corinthians 12 clearly states that all parts of the body are necessary and the uncomely parts perhaps more necessary. But there is an order of

responsibility, authority, and maturity in the body of Christ that must be recognized and adhered to if the body is going to be healthy.

1 Tim 3:6

He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. NIV

Overseers are not to be neophytes. They must have a proven record of faithfulness and fruitfulness to be entrusted with the responsibility of oversight.

PAUL AS A PREACHER-

Acts 9:18-20, 26-30 NIV

18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,

19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

26 When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.

27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

29 He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him.

30 When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Did Paul immediately go down to Jerusalem? What was the time to go?

Gal 1:13-24

13 For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it.

14 I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

15 But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased

16 to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man,

17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus.

18 Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days.

19 I saw none of the other apostles-only James, the Lord's brother.

20 I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.

21 Later I went to Syria and Cilicia.

22 I was personally unknown to the churches of Judea that are in Christ.

- 23 They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."
24 And they praised God because of me. NIV

Three years transpire before Saul goes to Jerusalem. His old associates do not take kindly to his conversion and seek to kill him. Barnabas sends him to Tarsus.

PAUL AS A TEACHER-

Acts 11:20-26

- 20 Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.
21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.
22 News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.
23 When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.
24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.
25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,
26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. NIV

Barnabas is sent as an overseer for the church of Antioch. Discovering the state of affairs there, he decides he could use a good teacher. He gets Saul and brings him to Antioch.

PAUL AND BARNABAS AS DEACONS-

Acts 11:29-30

- 29 The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea.
30 This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul. NIV

Acts 12:25

When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark. NIV

This trip is not mentioned in Galatians, probably because it adds nothing to Paul's argument.

PAUL AND BARNABAS AS APOSTLES-

Acts 13:1-3

- 1 In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.
2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. NIV

I believe that Barnabas walked in the office of a prophet. Prophets major in encouragement (Acts 4:36; 11:23). The church is built on the apostles and prophets. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard of the work in Antioch, they sent up a foundational minister to establish the work. Paul, as far as I know, is never referred to in Scripture as a prophet per se. He describes himself as a “herald, teacher, and apostle.”

2 Tim 1:11

And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. NIV

1 Tim 2:7

And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle-I am telling the truth, I am not lying-and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles. NIV

Neither man is referred to as an apostle until after their commissioning from the church of Antioch in Acts 13. He and Barnabas stay on the mission field for quite some time then returned to Antioch.

Acts 14:26-28

26 From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

27 On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

28 And they stayed there a long time with the disciples. NIV

How long did they stay in Antioch? A long time. From Paul's first visit with the apostles to his second visit with them, fourteen years transpired.

Gal 2:1-9

1 Fourteen years later I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also.

2 I went in response to a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I did this privately to those who seemed to be leaders, for fear that I was running or had run my race in vain.

3 Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek.

4[This matter arose] because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.

5 We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with you.

6 As for those who seemed to be important-whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not judge by external appearance-those men added nothing to my message.

7 On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as Peter had been to the Jews.

8 For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles.

9 James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews. NIV

Acts 15:1-2

1 Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved."

2 This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. NIV

The point of all this is that we need to recognize the need for time for fruit to come to maturation. If we simply read the book of Acts, we might come away thinking that one day Saul was killing Christians and that the next he was writing epistles. Such is not the case. Much time transpired before the Holy Spirit anointed him with the ministry of an apostle. And many more years transpired before his ministry was recognized by the church at large. Even in all this, he was not puffed up, but retained a proper perspective of himself.

1 Tim 1:15

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-of whom I am the worst. NIV

1 Cor 15:8-10

8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them-yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. NIV

Paul came through the fight with his meekness and humbleness intact. He considered himself a stillborn child, miscarried and expelled from the womb prior to full fetal development (the original sense of abortion). We need to humble ourselves under the hand of God before we stand successfully against the devil (1 Peter 5:5-9). We should clothe ourselves with humility (Col 3:12).

Ps 75:6-7

6 No one from the east or the west or from the desert can exalt a man.

7 But it is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another. NIV

Awards-

The benefits of serving God are beyond enumeration. Truly, to serve Him is our duty (Rom 12:1; 6). God is loving and faithful to reward those who diligently seek Him (Heb 11:6).

1 Cor 2:9-10

9 However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"-

10 but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. NIV

All that having been said, specific awards are mentioned in Scripture.

WHAT ARE THE CROWNS?

The crown incorruptible for bodily discipline-

1 Cor 9:24-27

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.

27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. NIV

1 Cor 9:25

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. KJV

Crown of rejoicing (those you take to heaven with you)-

Phil 4:1

Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved. KJV

1 Thess 2:19

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? KJV

Crown of righteousness to those who love His appearing-

2 Tim 4:7-8

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. NIV

1 John 3:2-3

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known.

But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. NIV

Crown of glory to shepherds who are examples to the flock-

1 Peter 5:1-4

1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed:

- 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers-not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;
- 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.
- 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. NIV

Crown of life to those who persevere under trial (being faithful even unto death)-

James 1:12

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. NIV

Rev 2:10

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. NIV

Rev 3:10-11

10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. NIV

WHAT DID THEY COST?

Matt 27:29-30

29 and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said.

30 They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. NIV

Heb 2:6-9

6 But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?"

7 You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor

8 and put everything under his feet." In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.

9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. NIV

WHERE ARE THEY CAST?

Rev 4:4, 10-11

4 Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.

10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." NIV

Retirement pay-

Luke 19:11-27

- 11 While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once.
- 12 He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return.
- 13 So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'
- 14 "But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.'
- 15 "He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.
- 16 "The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.'
- 17 "'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'
- 18 "The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.'
- 19 "His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.'
- 20 "Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth.
- 21 I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.'
- 22 "His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow?'
- 23 Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?'
- 24 "Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.'
- 25 "'Sir,' they said, 'he already has ten!'
- 26 "He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away.'
- 27 But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me.'" NIV

John 14:2-3

- 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.
- 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. NIV

Rev 21:10-12, 18-19

- 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.
- 11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.
- 12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.

- 18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass.
19 The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, NIV

Rev 22:1-5; 12-14

- 1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb
2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.
4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.
5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.
12 "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.
13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.
14 "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. NIV