

“CASTING CROWNS”

Willesborough Baptist Church, Sunday 31st July

Mike Haywood

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Opening Reading:

Revelation 4: 1-11: The Throne in Heaven

“... they lay their crowns before the throne and say: “You are worthy, our Lord and God ...”

(v10, v11)

1. The Crown of Righteousness

2 Timothy 4: 7-8

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

The reward for:

- Living a good and righteous life
- Keeping the faith
- Choosing to do good
- Being set apart for God
- Eagerly anticipating the return of Christ
- Living in the light of his coming

2. The Crown of Victory

1 Corinthians 9: 24-25

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. 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 for ever.

A reward that is:

- Imperishable
- Incorruptible
- Everlasting

The reward for:

- Discipline
- Self control
- Resolute devotion and commitment

3. The Crown of Life

James 1: 12

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

The reward for:

- Perseverance
- Patiently enduring testing, temptation and trials
- Unconditional love for God above everything else
- Standing strong in the face of persecution, suffering or even death

4. The Crown of Glory

1 Peter 5: 2,4

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be ... And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

The reward for:

- Godly elders, shepherds, leaders
- Caring for and watching over the church
- Being examples to the church
- Feeding, serving ... not lording it over

5. The Crown of Rejoicing

1 Thessalonians 2: 19-20

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?

Is it not even **you** in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

For **you** are our glory and joy.

The reward for:

- Being obedient to Jesus' Great Commission
- Telling others about the grace of God in Christ
- Seeing them come to faith
- Being with them in heaven

Closing Reading:

Revelation 19: 11-16: "The Heavenly Warrior"

"His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns ... On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS"
(v12, v16)