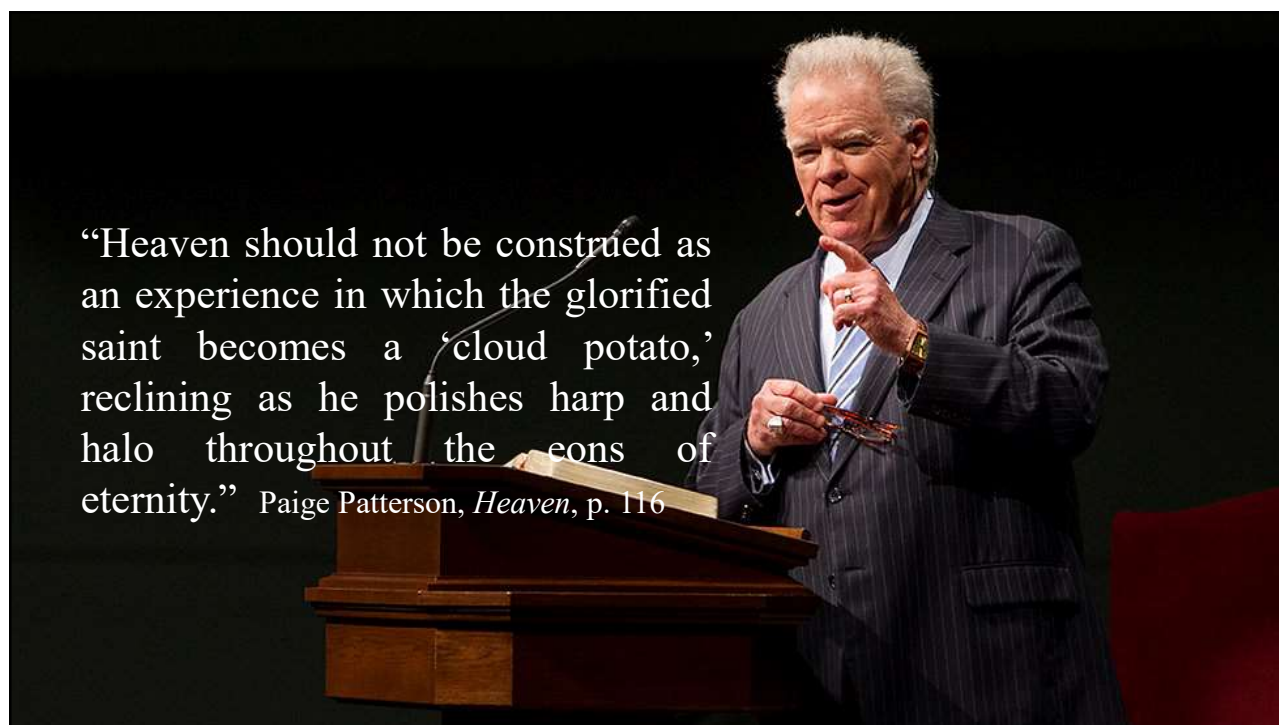




# heaven & hell

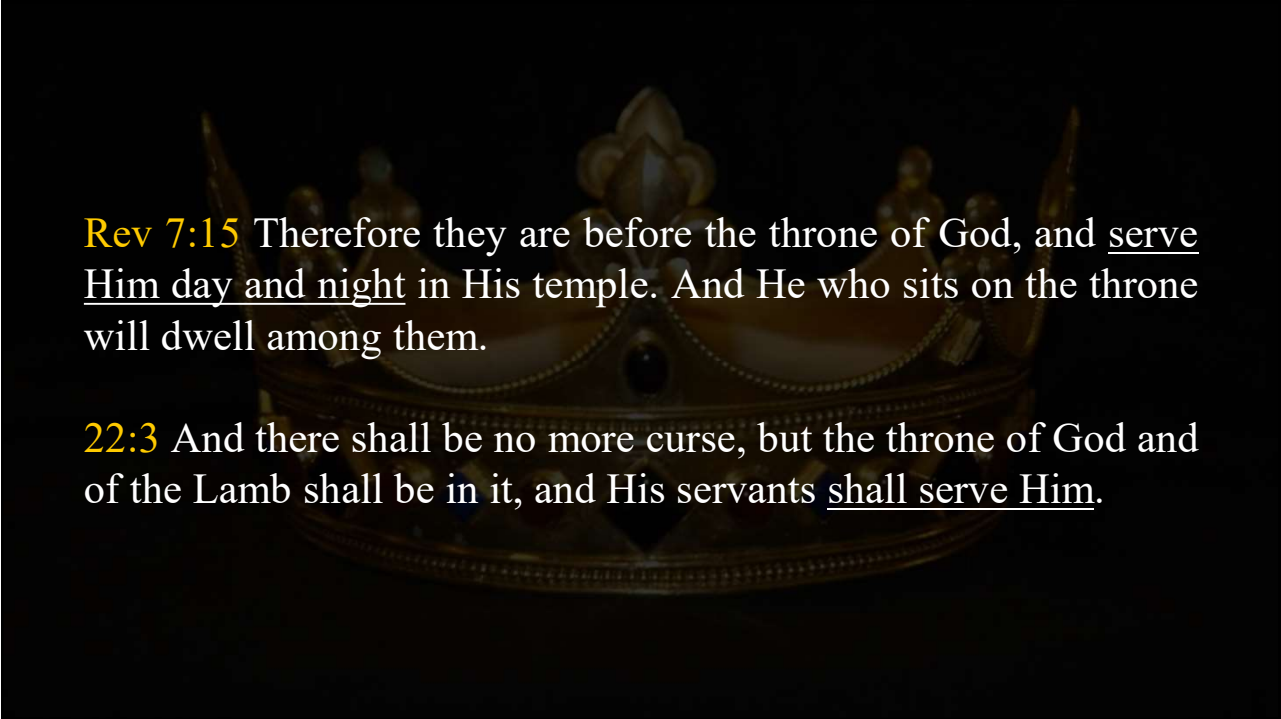
## Part 11: The believer's crown

1



“Heaven should not be construed as an experience in which the glorified saint becomes a ‘cloud potato,’ reclining as he polishes harp and halo throughout the eons of eternity.” Paige Patterson, *Heaven*, p. 116

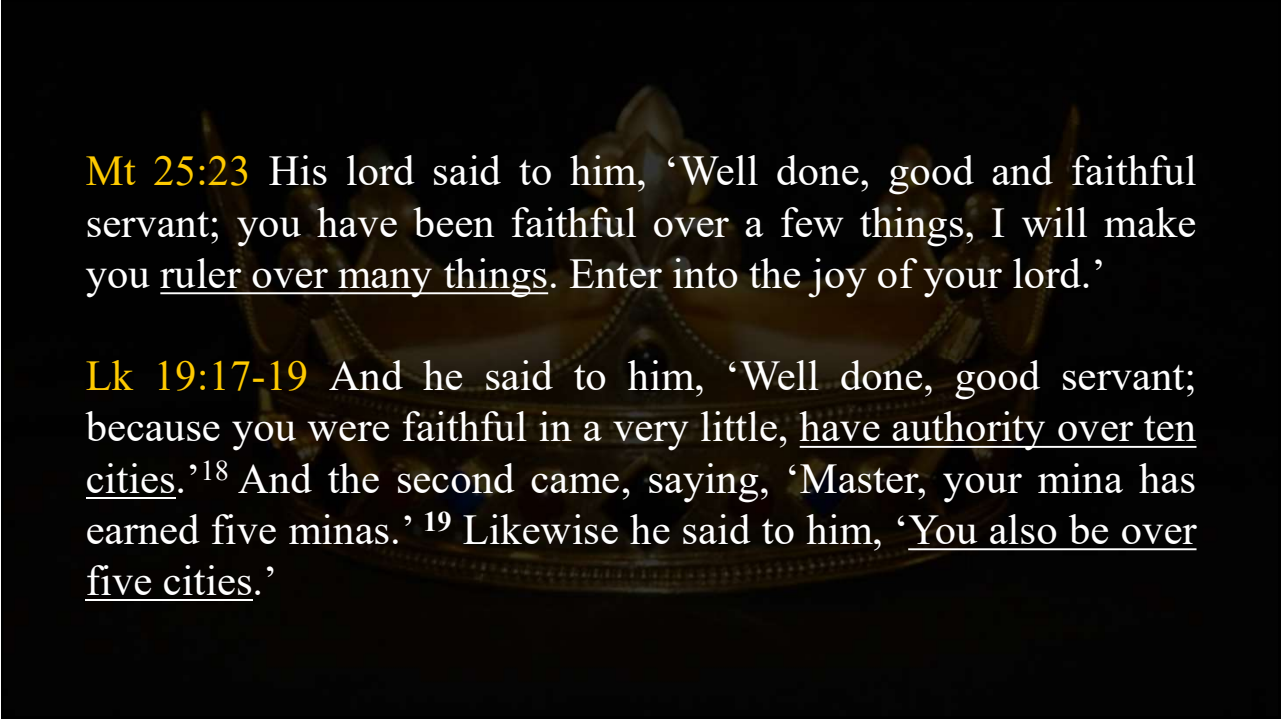
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**Rev 7:15** Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

**22:3** And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

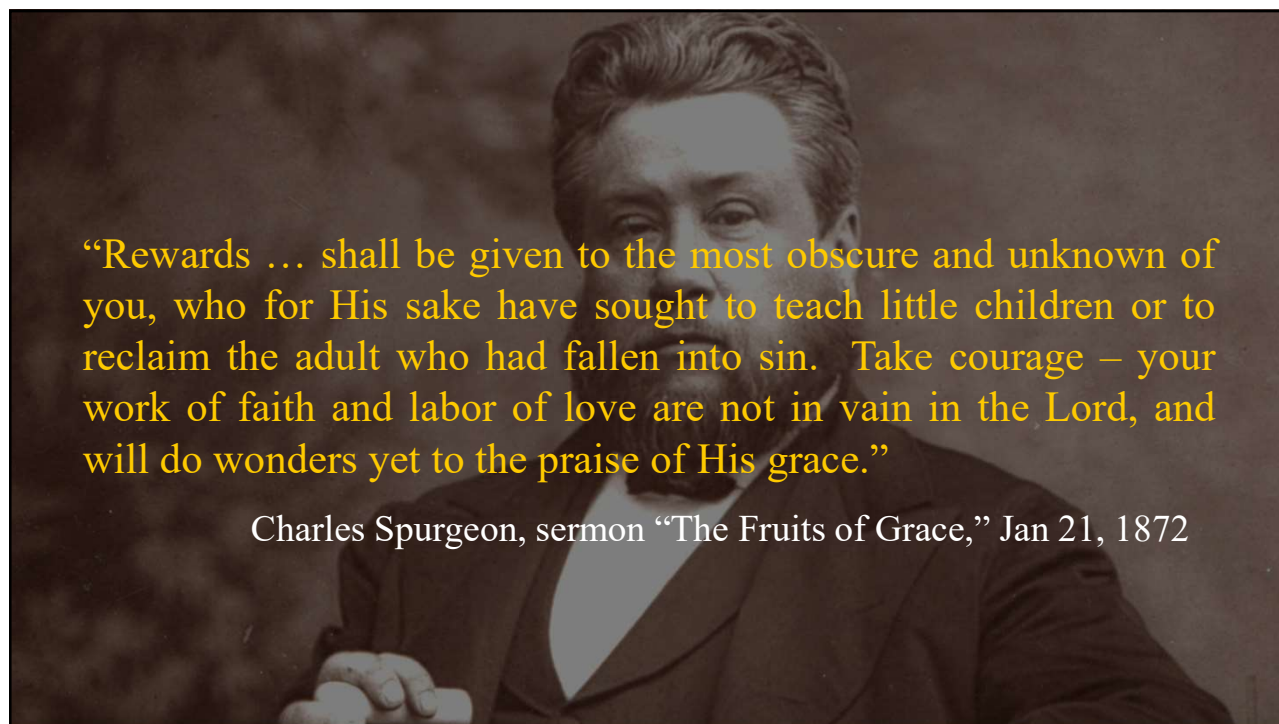
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**Mt 25:23** His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

**Lk 19:17-19** And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'<sup>18</sup> And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.'<sup>19</sup> Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.'

4



5



6

- Given to those who develop personal/spiritual discipline in their lives

1 Cor 9:25-27 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. <sup>27</sup> But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

7

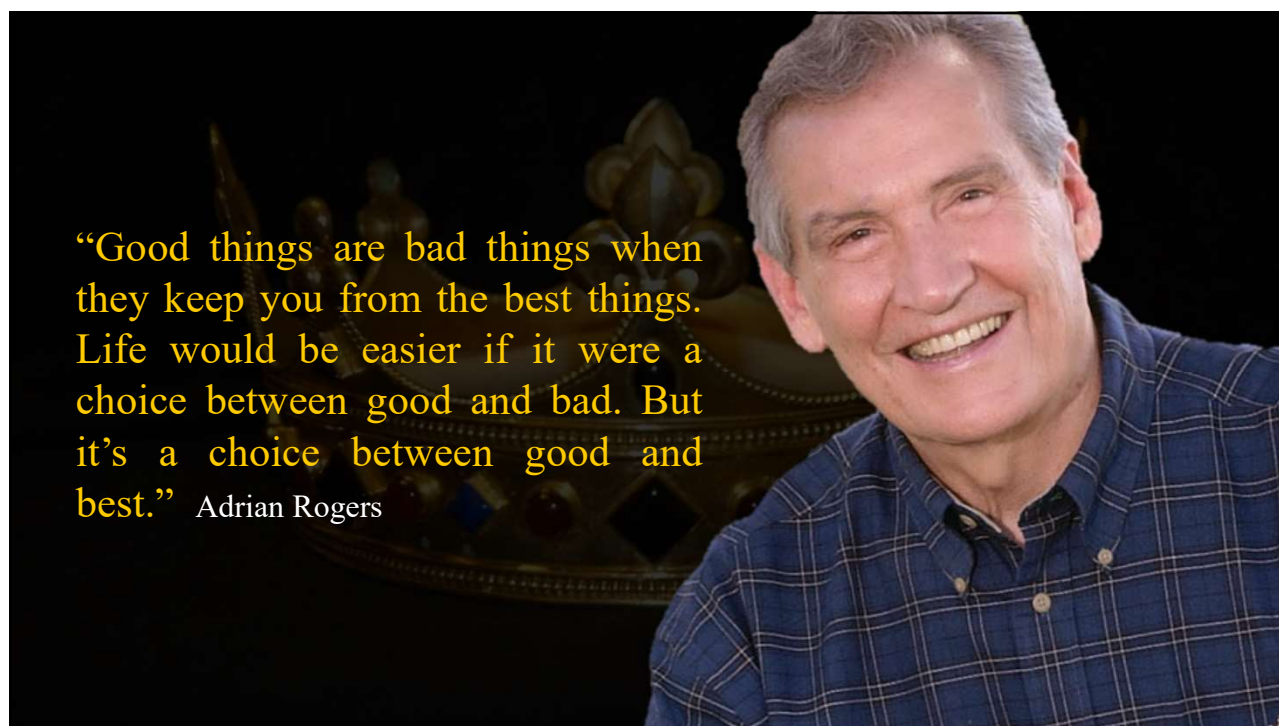
- Recipients learned to say “no” to some things and “yes” to others

1 Cor 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

1 Cor 6:12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

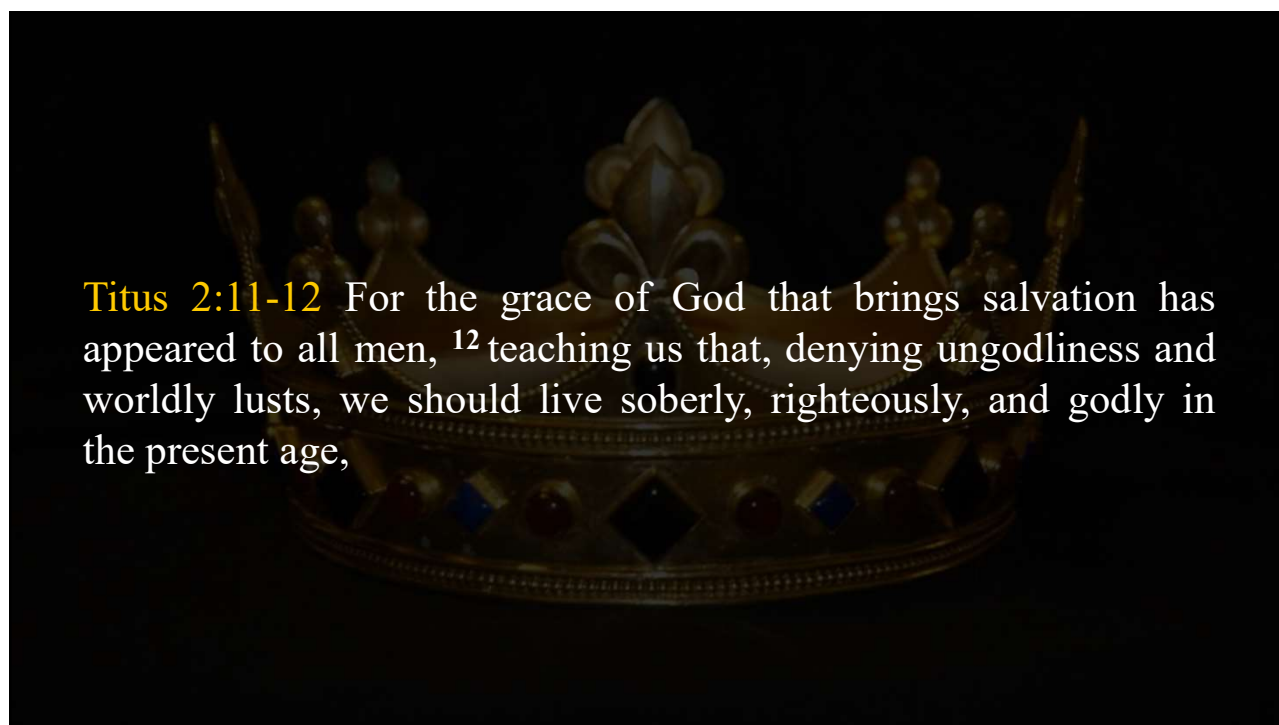
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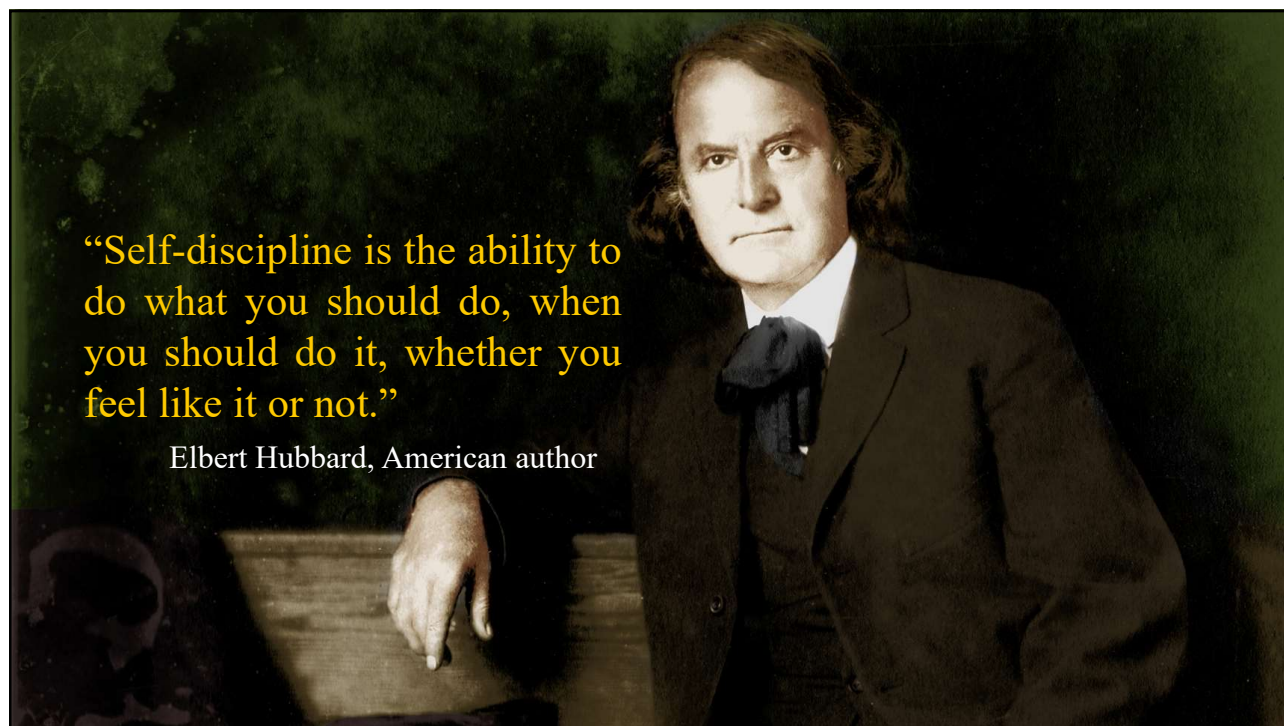
“Good things are bad things when they keep you from the best things. Life would be easier if it were a choice between good and bad. But it’s a choice between good and best.” Adrian Rogers

9



**Titus 2:11-12** For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

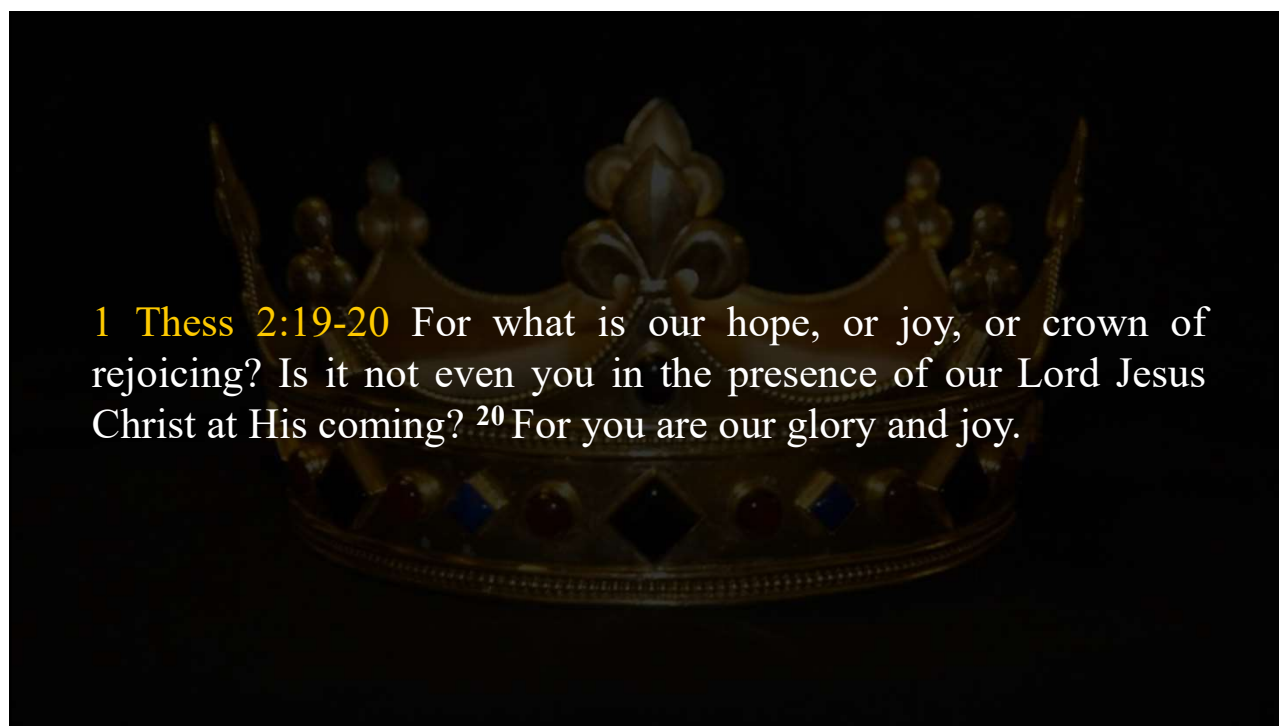
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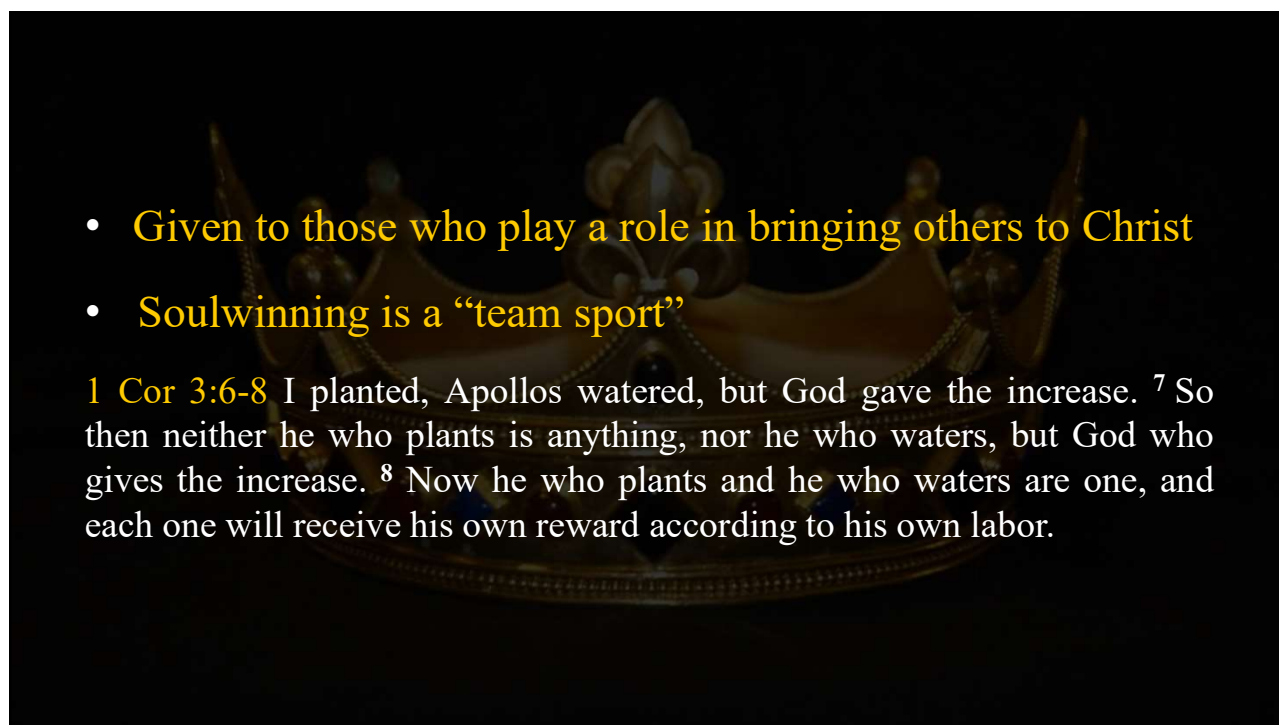


12



**1 Thess 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? <sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy.

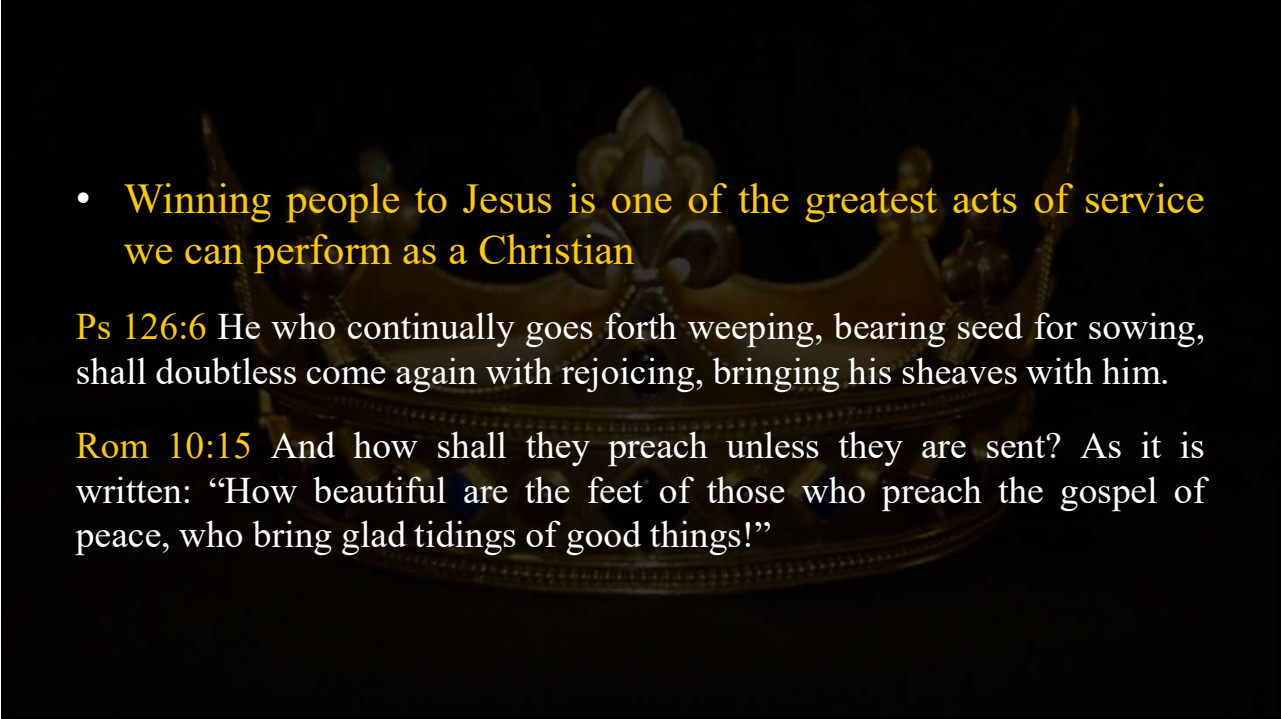
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- **Given to those who play a role in bringing others to Christ**
- **Soulwinning is a “team sport”**

**1 Cor 3:6-8** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. <sup>7</sup> So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. <sup>8</sup> Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

14

- 
- Winning people to Jesus is one of the greatest acts of service we can perform as a Christian

**Ps 126:6** He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

**Rom 10:15** And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”

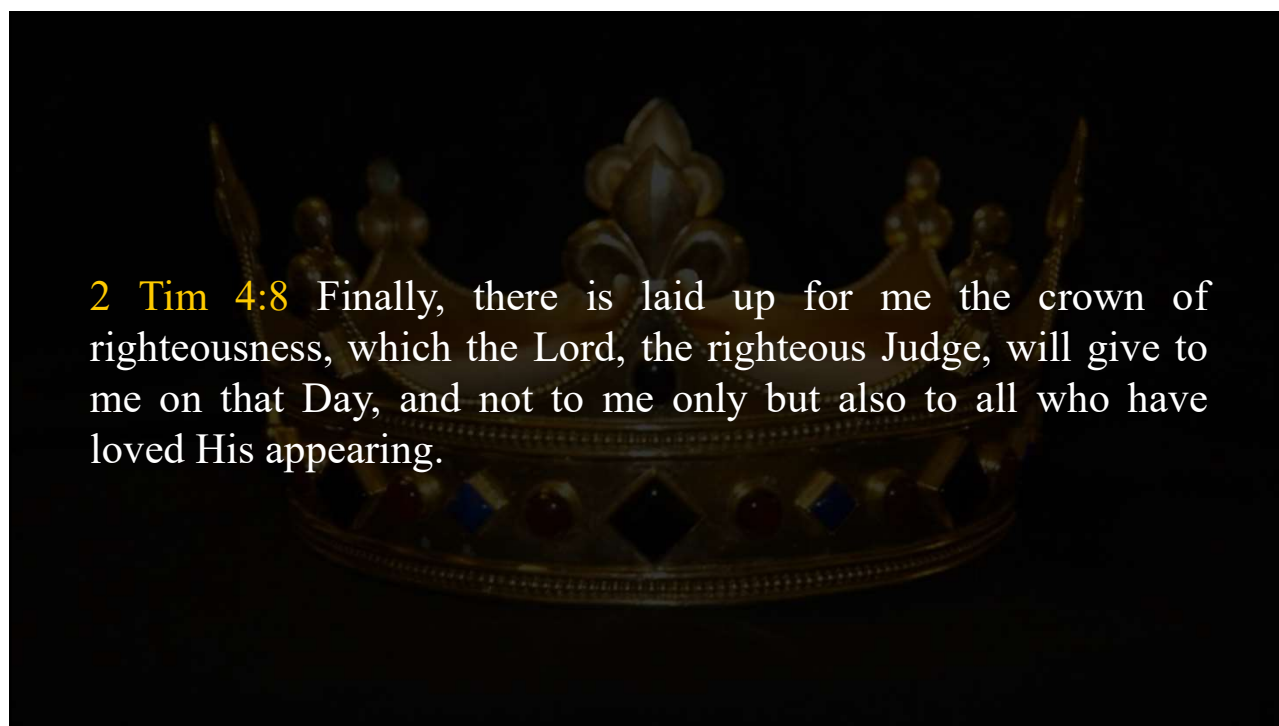
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### 3. The Crown of Righteousness

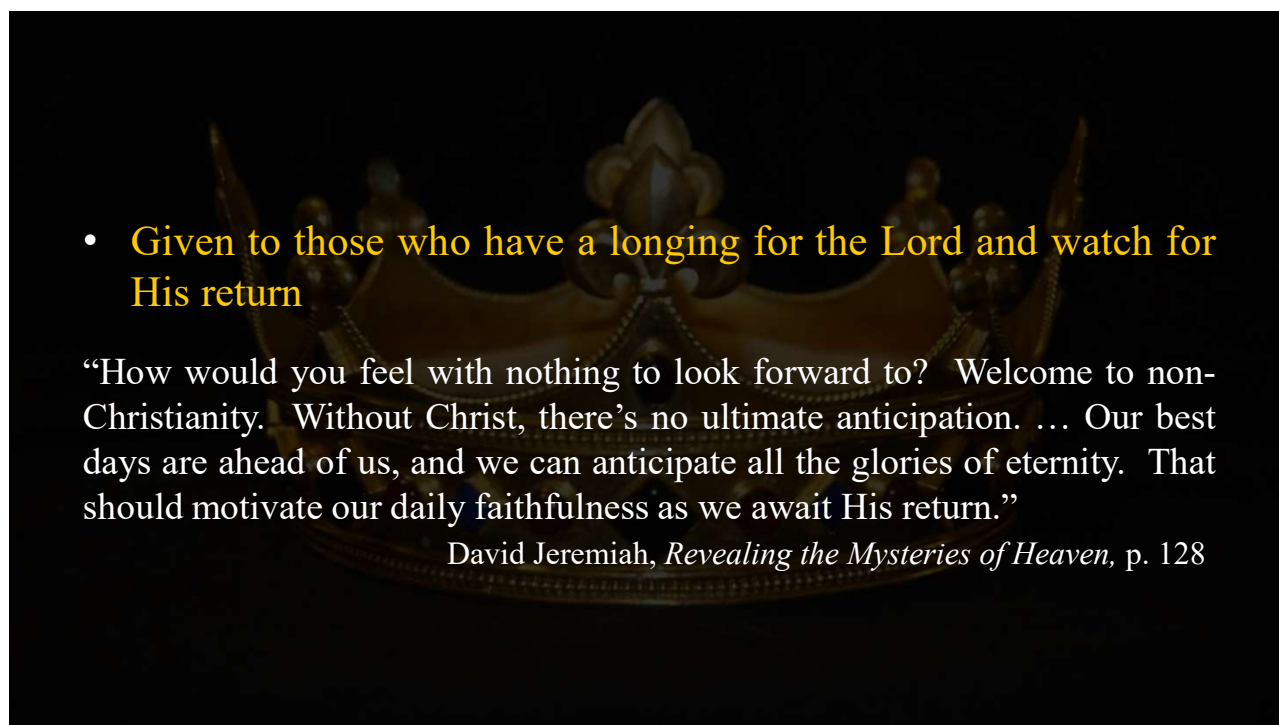
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**2 Tim 4:8** Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

17



- **Given to those who have a longing for the Lord and watch for His return**

“How would you feel with nothing to look forward to? Welcome to non-Christianity. Without Christ, there’s no ultimate anticipation. ... Our best days are ahead of us, and we can anticipate all the glories of eternity. That should motivate our daily faithfulness as we await His return.”

David Jeremiah, *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven*, p. 128

18

- These believers understand that their time is short and live that way

**1 Cor 7:29** But this I say, brethren, the time is short, ...

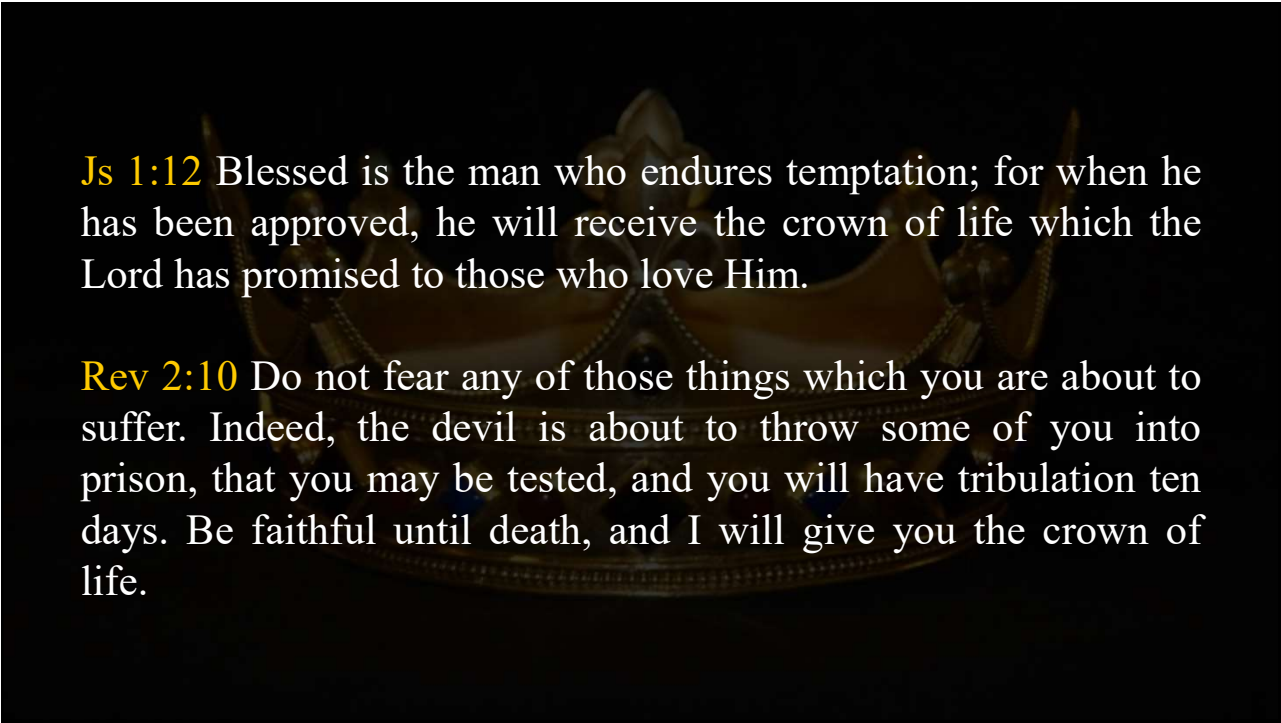
**Rom 13:11-14** And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. <sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

19



## 4. The Crown of Life

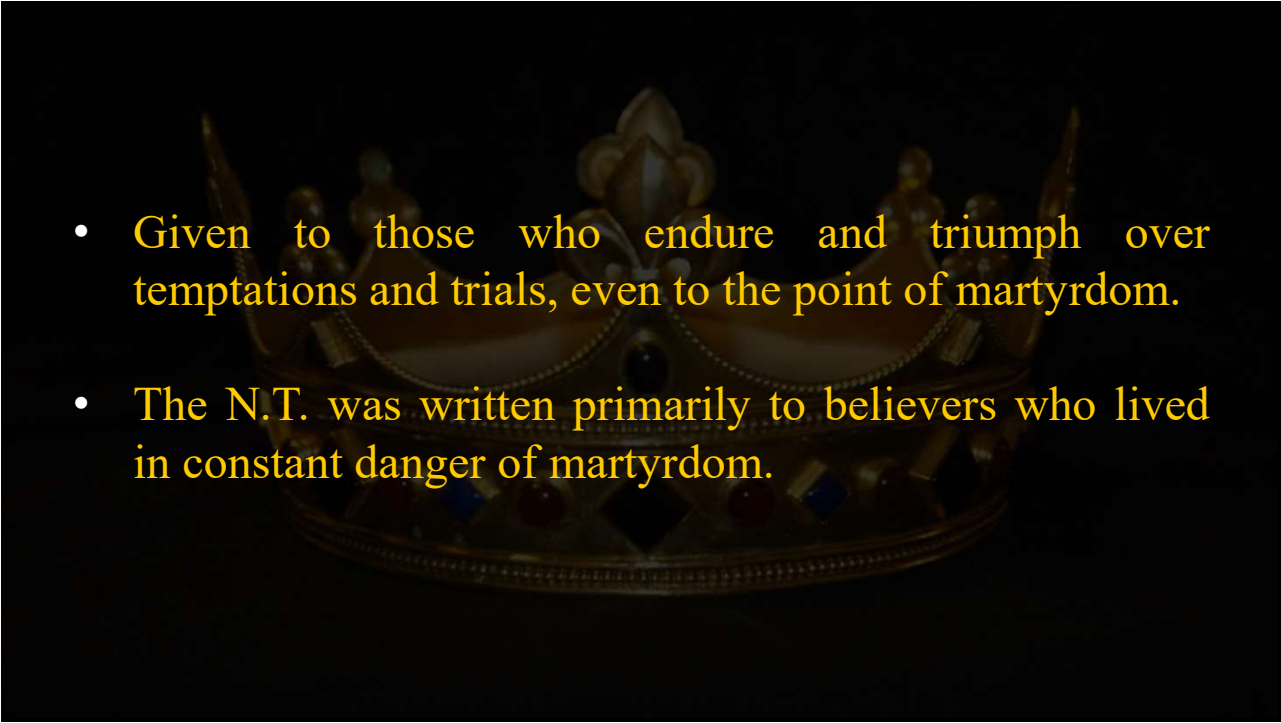
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**Js 1:12** Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

**Rev 2:10** Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

21

- 
- Given to those who endure and triumph over temptations and trials, even to the point of martyrdom.
  - The N.T. was written primarily to believers who lived in constant danger of martyrdom.

22



According to the ministry, Open Doors, 100% of believers living in 21 countries around the world experience persecution for their faith with more than 215 million facing “high levels” of persecution.

“Nearly 1 in 12 Christians lives in an area or culture in which Christianity is illegal, forbidden, or punished.”

23

- 
- Trial and testing are part of the Christian experience

**Jn 16:33** In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

**2 Tim 3:12** Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

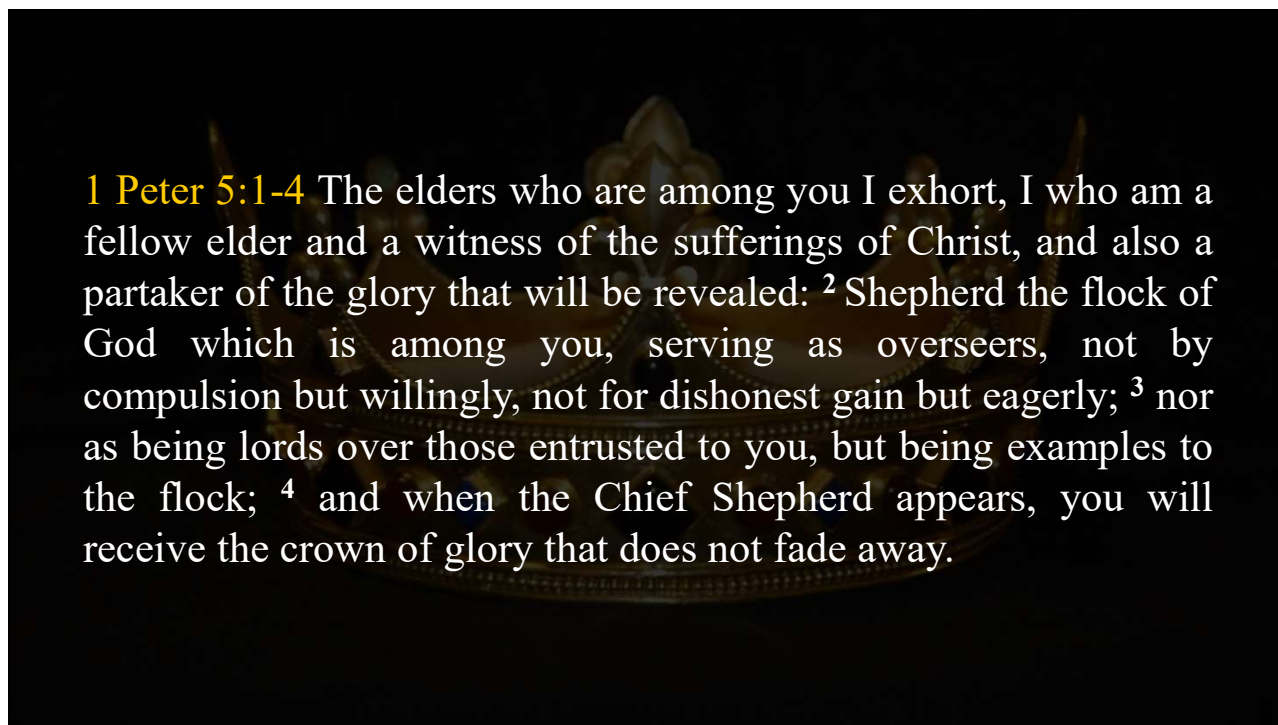
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## 5. The Crown of Glory

25



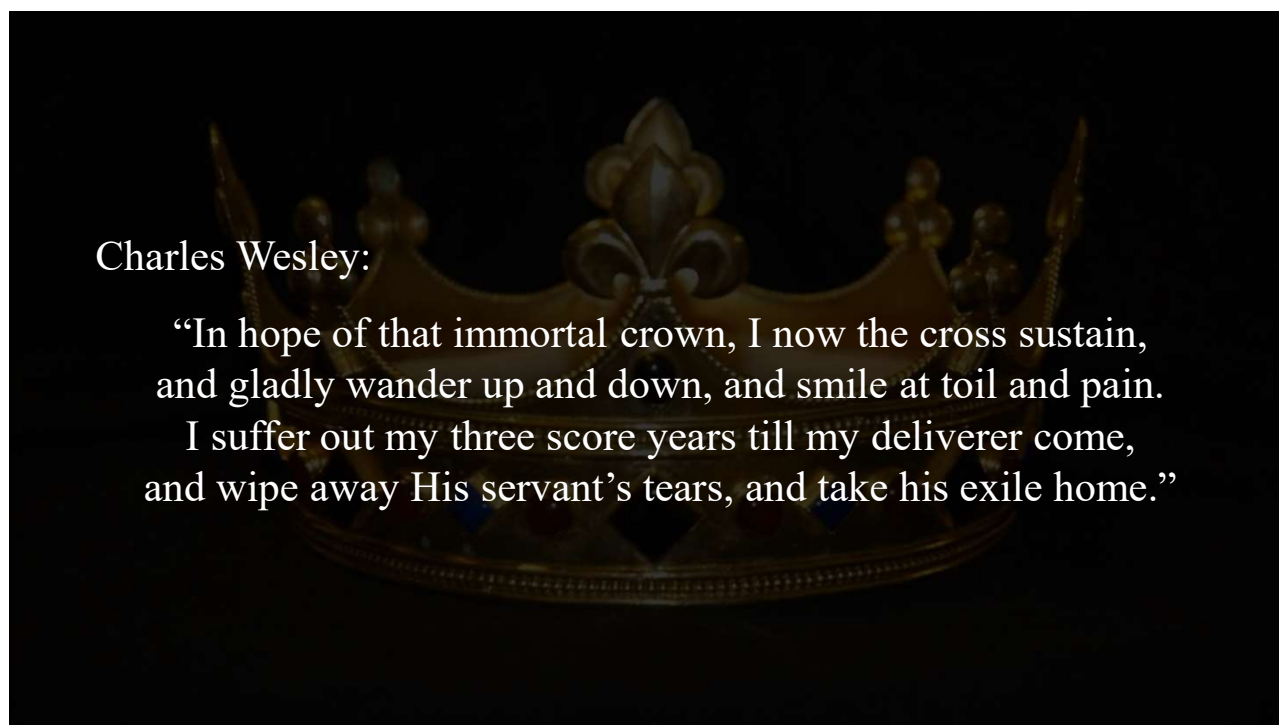
**1 Peter 5:1-4** The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: <sup>2</sup> Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; <sup>4</sup> and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

26



Given to Christian leaders and those who are faithful  
shepherds of the people of God

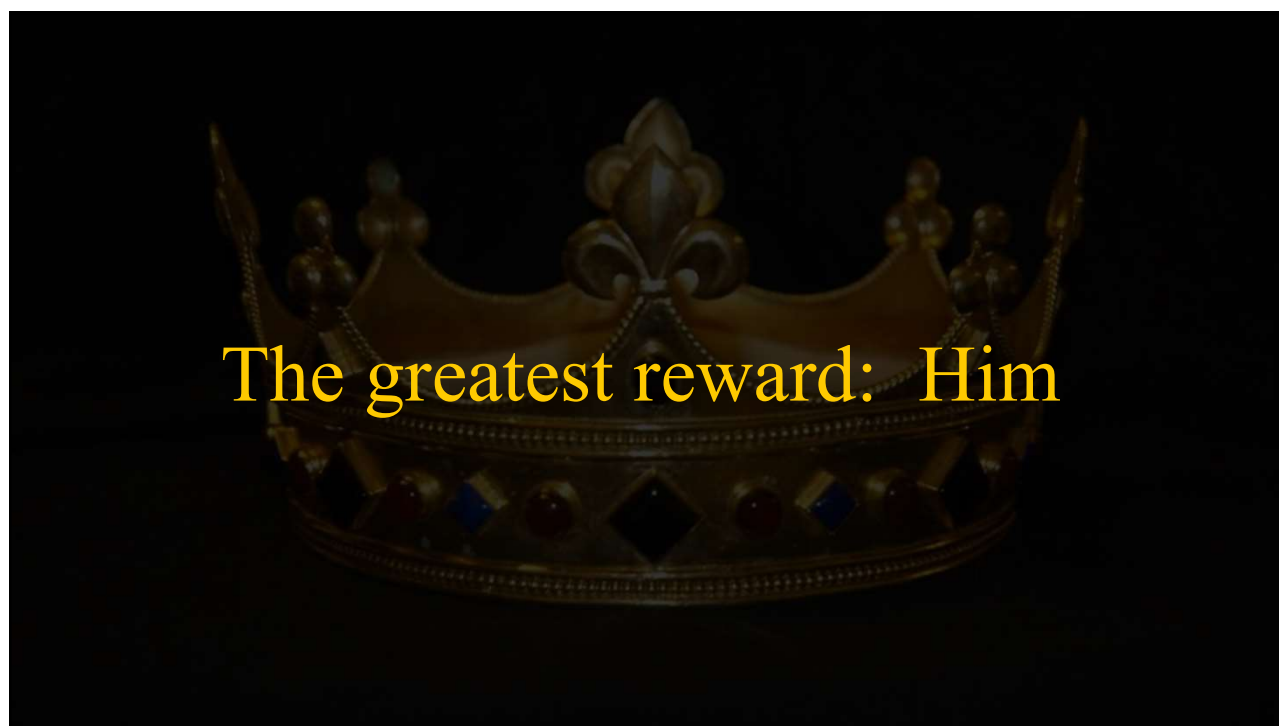
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Charles Wesley:

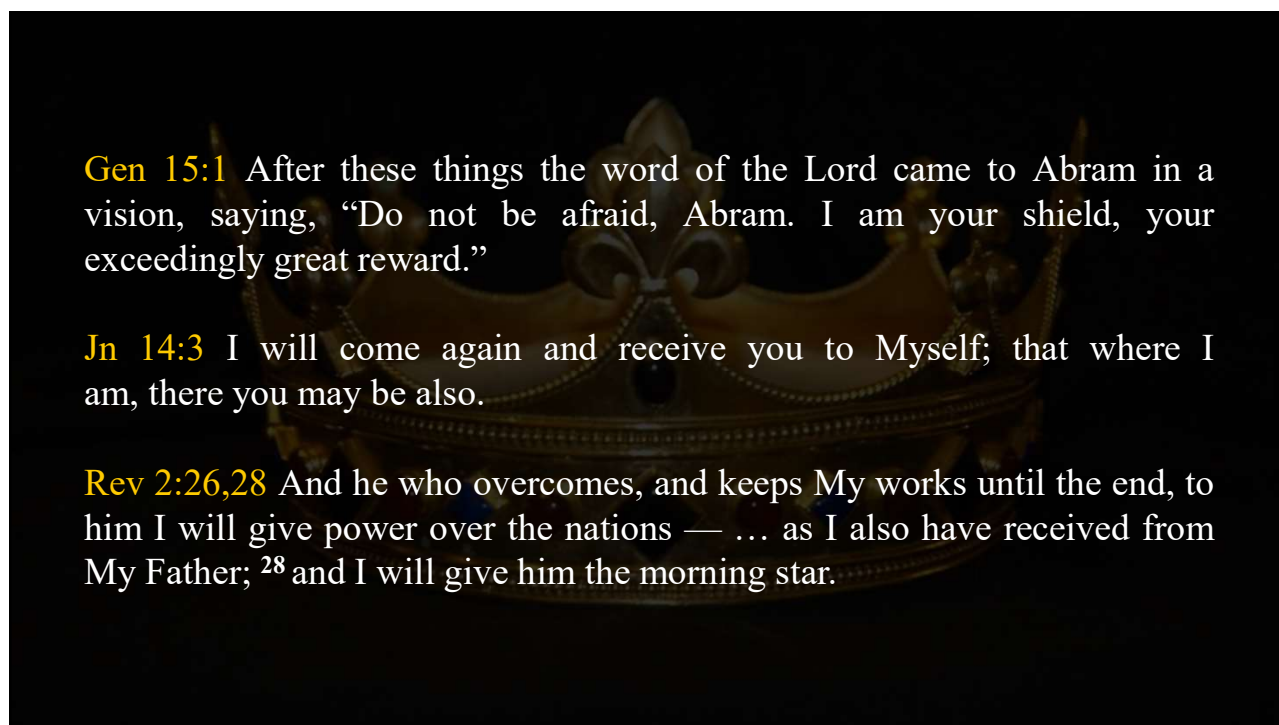
“In hope of that immortal crown, I now the cross sustain,  
and gladly wander up and down, and smile at toil and pain.  
I suffer out my three score years till my deliverer come,  
and wipe away His servant’s tears, and take his exile home.”

28



The greatest reward: Him

29

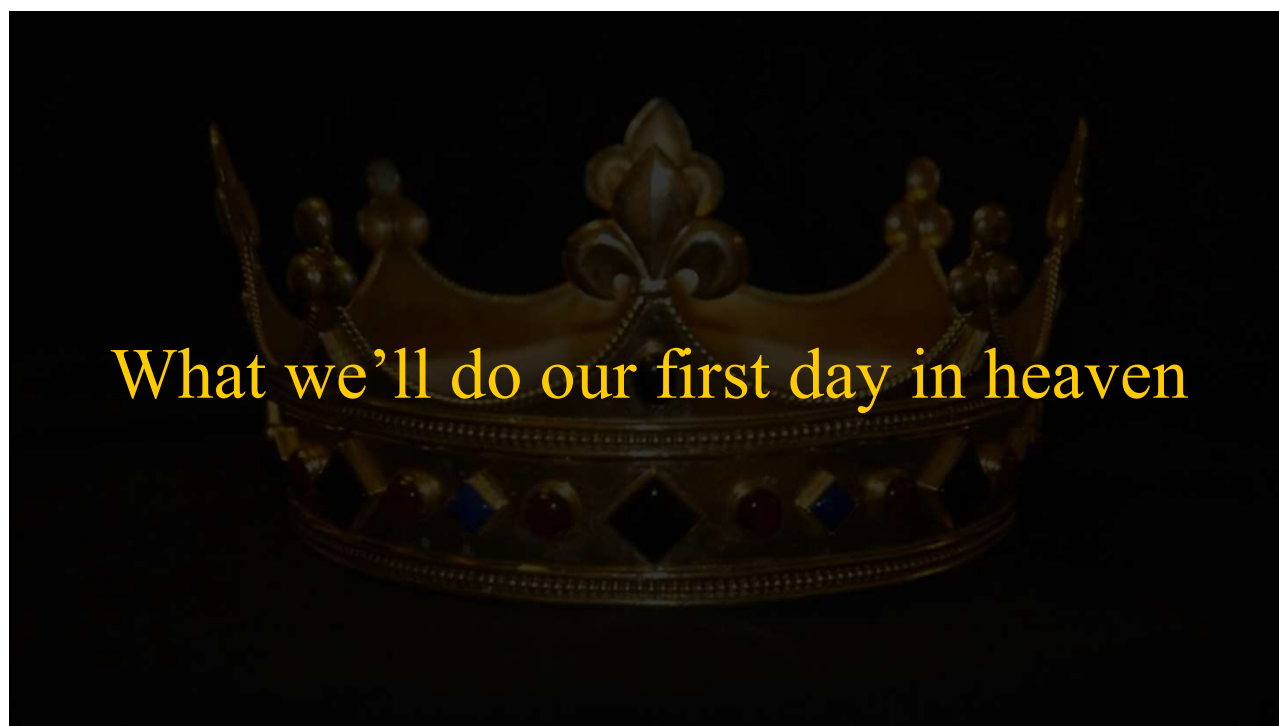


**Gen 15:1** After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

**Jn 14:3** I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

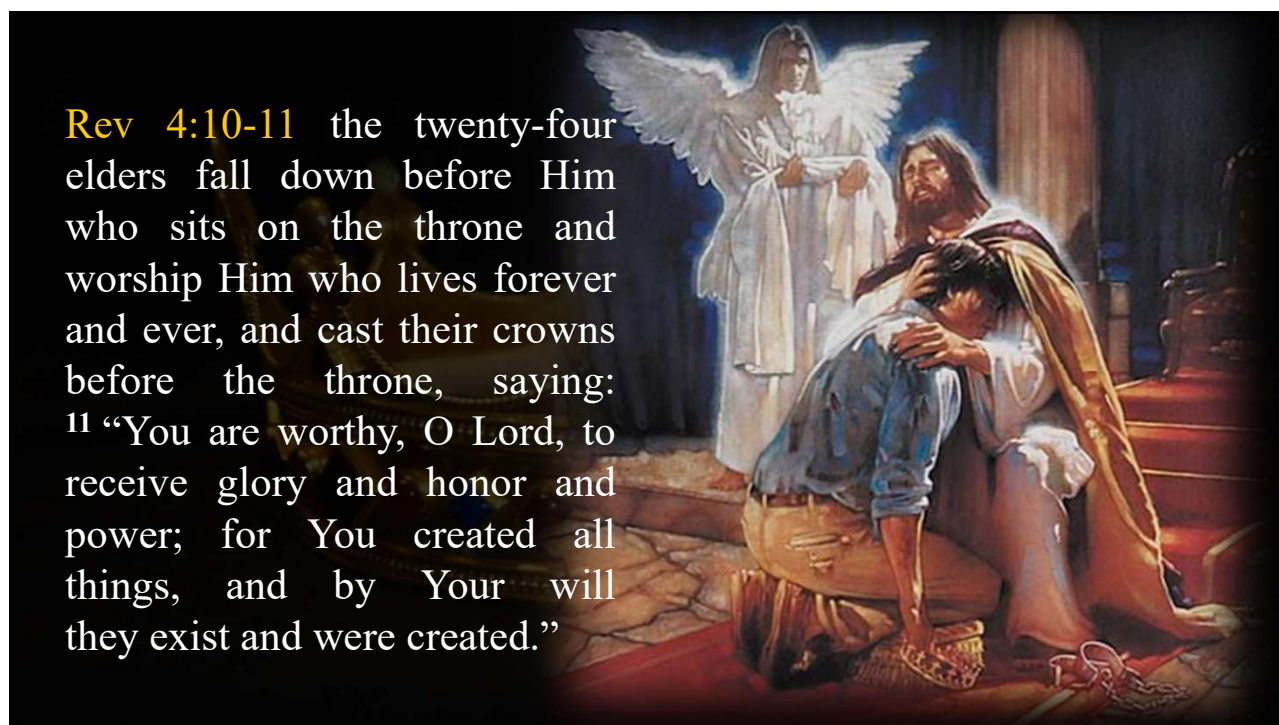
**Rev 2:26,28** And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations — ... as I also have received from My Father; <sup>28</sup> and I will give him the morning star.

30



What we'll do our first day in heaven

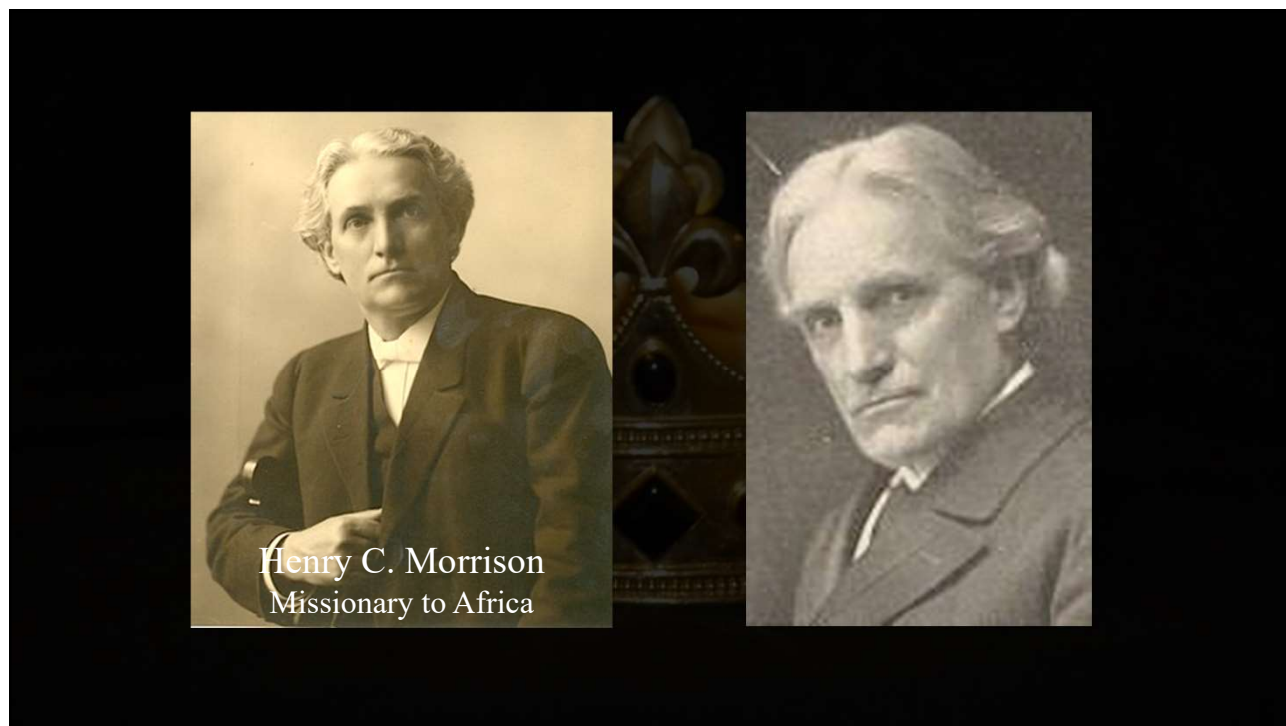
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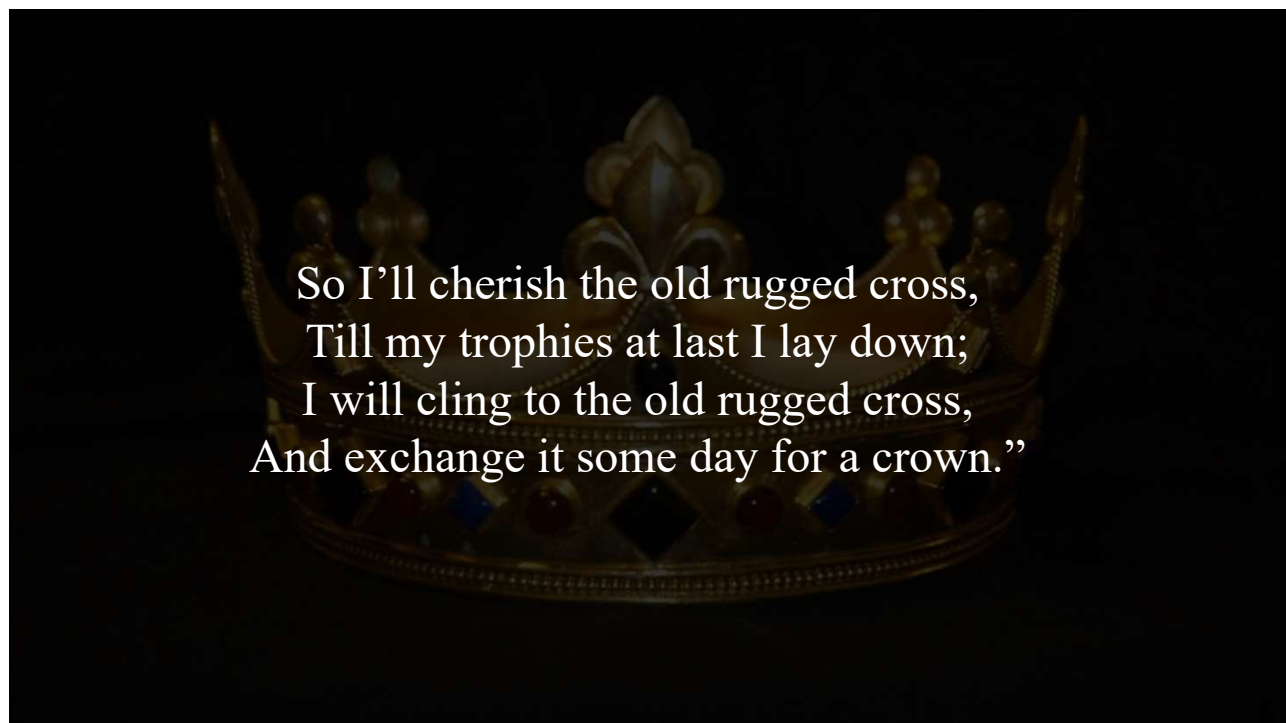
**Rev 4:10-11** the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:  
11 "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

32





33



So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some day for a crown."

34