

## **EVENING WORSHIP**

25 September 2005

**Theme: “Not with Uncertainty”**

**Text: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

**Title: “The Prize of an Imperishable Crown”**

### **(I) A POWERFUL IMAGERY OF THE WORD “CROWN”**

- 1. This is not a reference to the adornment won by monarchs**
- 2. It is a reference to the “Crown” given to those who are victorious**

### **(II) AN IMAGERY WELL-UNDERSTOOD**

#### **1. The Victor’s Crown**

- a) A reference to the laurel crown placed on the head of the winner(s)
- b) A symbol of significant recognition of achievement of the individual(s)
- c) The laurel leaves perish after a while
- d) Hence the reference to “a perishable crown”

#### **2. Despite its perishable nature**

- a) Many aspire to obtain the crown
- b) Many work very hard to obtain the crown

### **(III) IMAGERY APPLIED INTO THE SPIRITUAL REALM**

#### **1. Imperishable Crown**

- a) Also a symbol of victory
- b) This crown however is imperishable  
*“Finally, there is a 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.”*  
2 Timothy 4:8
- c) As strong a desire to compete well and emerge victorious

#### **(IV) THE DESIRE FOR THE IMPERISHABLE CROWN**

*“And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it for a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown” 1 Corinthians 9:25*

- 1. A natural competitive desire**
- 2. A good desire**
- 3. A powerful motivational desire**

#### **(V) THE JOYOUS CHALLENGE OF RECEIVING THE VICTOR’S CROWN**

*“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” Revelation 2:10*

*“Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown” Revelation 3:11*

##### **1. The Promise of a Crown**

- a) A glorious hope
- b) An inspiring hope

##### **2. The Means of Obtaining the Crown of Life**

- a) Faithfulness
- b) Holding fast

#### **POEM**

##### **MOVE TO THE FORE!**

Move to the fore;  
Say not another is fitter than thou.  
Shame to thy shrinking! Up! Face thy task now.  
Own thyself equal to all a soul may,  
Cease thy evading- God needs thee today.  
Move to the fore!

God Himself waits, and must wait till thou come;  
Men are God's "prophets" though ages lie dumb.  
Halts the Christ-Kingdom with conquest so near?  
Thou art the cause, thou soul in the rear.  
Move to the fore!

- Anonymous -