

Series: The Crown
Topic: Living for Something
Text(s): 1 Peter 4:1-2
Date: March 2, 2024



Introduction

As we step into this new month, our church embarks on a unique path. Today, we have the incredible opportunity to honor our pledges to the Lord and launch a brand-new sermon series titled "The Crown." This series will center on the overarching theme of living for an eternal reward. As we begin, our journey starts with the first topic: "Living for Something."

You will live for something. **1 Peter 4:1-2**

- We say things like life is not about paying bills and dying.
- Parent may say, we stayed together because of the kids.
- Some people pursue success, pleasure, relationships, notoriety or personal fulfillment.
- Responsibility vs Priority. **Matthew 10:37-39**

Categories of People

- Those who know what they are living for. **Genesis 50:24 | Hebrews 11:24**
 - Joseph requested for his bones to be taken to Canaan
 - Moses chose to be associated with his birth people.
- Those who do not know what they are living for. **Genesis 25:29-34 | Genesis 3:22**
 - Esau rejecting his birthright is proof that did not know
 - Eve seeking wisdom outside of God proves that she did not know
- Those who do not know they should be living for something
 - Judas seeking to make ungodly gain proves did not know he should

There are only two ways to live.

- Being heavenly minded. **Acts 21:8-14**
 - Paul's desire to go to Rome
- Being earthly minded. **Matthew 16:21-23**
 - Peter did not want Jesus to die.
 - Peter wanted to build tent on the mount of transfiguration.
 - Your presence in church without an effort to grow is earthly minded.

The ability to choose is only found in Christ. **Romans 6:10-14**

- a. Slaves to sin
- b. Law & Grace

Conclusion:

Human beings are created to live for something. From the beginning of creation until now, people have sought purpose in many different things. Without Christ, we lack the ability to truly choose what we live for, but in Him, those who believe are given the power of choice. God's desire is for us to live for Him, and the best way to begin today is by making Him our priority, not just an option.

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Series: **The Crown**

Topic: **Eternally Minded**

Text(s): Genesis 3:22, Colossian 3:1-2, Matthew 6:19-21, Ecclesiastes 3:9-11, 1 Peter 2:11

Introduction: Life now may seem like it will never end, but you are living in time, investing into your eternal future. Many of us are so focused on building wealth in this world and getting properties and acquiring so much in this world. You and I know that our destination will not end in this world, we know death exist and if death exist then there is another place we will all end up. This place is what is called the ETERNAL Plane. Today we will explore Eternity and how to be Eternally Minded while living in time.

1. Eternity Definition: A seemingly endless or immeasurable time.

- Infinite time | The State after death | Valid or existing at all times | Seemingly Endless

2. Mans introduction to Eternity

- **Genesis 3:22**

- i. **LIVE in Hebrew meaning**

Strong's #: H2425

Word: châyay

Pronounced: khaw-yah'-ee

Definition: to continue in life, remain alive

- ii. **FOREVER in Hebrew Meaning**

Strong's #: H5769

Word: 'ôwlâm

Pronounced: o-lawm'

Definition: long duration, antiquity, futurity, for ever, ever, everlasting, evermore, perpetual, old, ancient, world

2. continuous existence, perpetual

3. everlasting, indefinite or unending future, eternity

3. Be Eternally Minded

- Ecclesiastes 3:9-11 – Eternity is planted in each heart.
- Colossians 3:1-2 – Fix your eyes on the realities of Heaven
- Matthew 6:19-21- Where you store your treasure shows where you want to be forever.

4. Divest from your sins

- **Divest definition** - rid oneself of something that one no longer wants or requires.
 - i. Your life now is your investment into the Eternal
 1. 1 Peter 2:11 – We are temporal residents on earth
 2. Jude 1: 4, 6-7 - Abusing the grace and call of God
 3. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Revelation 21:7-8, - Sinners will not see heaven
 4. Colossians 3:5-10 – Put to death the sins you are struggling with.

5. Invest in Holiness and righteousness

- 1 Peter 1:13-19, 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8 – We are called to Holiness

6. The two Eternal Homes

- Luke 16:19-31 - **The Rich Man and Lazarus**
- Revelations 20:11-15 - **Final Judgement**

7. 3 Take Aways

- Ecclesiastes 7: 2-4 - Let the realities of life be a reminder that you have somewhere to go one day.
- Your current lifestyle is preparing you for your Eternity.
- Constant reading, studying, hearing watching and practicing of the word will keep your mind on eternity

Conclusion: *Being eternally minded comes with intentionality. You must be intentional with your life through the word of God and living to the best of your ability through the obedience of it. All in all, we shouldn't be careless and not live with a purpose. An aimless soul will enter an eternity he did not prepare his life on earth for. This is not the will of God for men.*

Series: The Crown

Topic: The Value of Eternity

Text: Philippians 1:23-24

Introduction: One of my favorite hymnals growing up was *Blessed Assurance*. The first line declares, “Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of Glory Divine!” A foretaste is just a sample, a preview, a glimpse of something far greater to come. You see, there is a foretaste, and there is a full taste. What we experience of God on earth, His peace, His presence, His power is just a small appetizer compared to the eternal feast awaiting us in heaven.

Paul understood this when he said, “To depart and be with Christ is far better” (Philippians 1:23). He wasn’t escaping life; he had tasted something greater! And once you’ve seen paradise, this world starts to look like a cheap motel. So today, let’s talk about why eternity is worth longing for, but also, why while we wait, we must live with purpose, passion, and kingdom impact!

1. Why did Paul desire to depart?

- Paul had seen something greater.
- Paul had been to the 3rd Heavens (2 Corinthians 12:2-4)
- Paul had seen Jesus on His way to Damascus (Acts 9)

2. Why Is Being with Christ Far Better?

- The Fullness of His Presence
- Here, we walk by faith, but **there**, we will walk by sight (**2 Corinthians 5:7**)
- Here, we worship in the Spirit, but **there**, we will behold Him face to face (**1 John 3:2**)
- No more suffering. No more sin. No more battles. (*Revelation 21:4*)
- The struggle against the flesh, the trials of this life, they all end in His presence.

3. Long for eternity, but live for purpose. (Philippians 1:24)

- Don’t be so focused on heaven that you forget your assignment on earth
- Don’t be so caught up in the temporary that you lose sight of the eternal.

4 practical ways to live with eternity in mind while still fulfilling our purpose on earth?

- 1. Prioritize Your Relationship with Christ**
- 2. Live with Purpose and Kingdom Impact**
- 3. Hold Loosely to Earthly Things**
- 4. Keep Your Eyes on Eternity Every Day**

Conclusion:

Eternity is not just a distant reality it is the reality that must shape how we live right now. Paul longed for heaven because he had seen something greater than the earth, yet he remained committed to his earthly assignment until God called him home. So, while we set our hearts on eternity, we must walk with purpose, serve with passion, and give with open hands. Live with eternity in mind, but don't waste the breath God has given you on earth, run your race, fulfill your calling, and when the time comes, step into glory knowing you lived for what truly matters and that you are in a Far better Place.

Series: The Crown
 Topic: **Living for an Eternal Reward**
 Text: 2 Timothy 4:1–8 (Focus: vv.7–8)
 Date: March 23, 2025



Introduction

This month’s series has been on “*The Crown*,” and last week, Pastor Yaw spoke on “*The Value of Eternity*.” He highlighted the eternal value of life with Christ compared to the vanity of earthly possessions. Today, I’ll be speaking on “*Living for an Eternal Reward*.” My goal is to explore the **five crowns** that God promises to believers and to show us how we can **press on** and **press through** to attain them.

I. Background and Context

Core themes

- Many believers struggle to stay faithful in hard times.
- Paul, nearing execution, writes his final letter encouraging Timothy to endure.
- The Christian life isn’t about temporary success—it’s about finishing strong and living for eternity.

Context of 2 Timothy 4:7–8

- **Paul’s Final Letter (A.D. 67):** Written from prison under Nero’s persecution.
- **Key Metaphors:**
 - *Fought the good fight* – Spiritual warfare (Eph 6:12)
 - *Finished the race* – Endurance in faith (Heb 12:1–2)
 - *Kept the faith* – Guarding the truth (1 Tim 6:20)

II. The Crowns Promised in Scripture

| Crown | Greek Roots | Scripture | Meaning | Recipients |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Righteousness | <i>Dikaiosynēs, Apagein</i> | 2 Tim 4:8 | For those who long for His return | Eternally focused believers |
| Life | <i>Zōēs, Hupomenō</i> | Jas 1:12, Rev 2:10 | For enduring trials | Faithful under pressure |
| Glory | <i>Doxēs, Poimēn</i> | 1 Pet 5:4 | For faithful shepherds | Pastors/leaders |
| Imperishable | <i>Aphthartos, Agōnizomai</i> | 1 Cor 9:25 | For spiritual discipline | Holy-living believers |
| Rejoicing | <i>Kauchēseōs, Evangelizō</i> | 1 Thess 2:19–20 | For soul winning | Evangelists & witnesses |

- Matt 6:19–20 – Don’t chase temporary treasure—store up heavenly rewards.
- Earthly success fades, eternal reward is forever.

III. How to Press on Toward the Reward

1. Keep Eyes on Jesus – *Col. 3:2*
2. Stay in Word & Prayer – *Ps. 119:105*
3. Persevere Through Trials – *James 1:12*
4. Serve with the Right Heart – *1 Cor. 9:24–25*
5. Build Godly Community – *Heb. 10:24–25*

Conclusion: Like Paul, we are called to finish well. The reward is not only for him—but for all who eagerly await Christ. Are you living with eternity in mind?