



# Crowns and Awards

February 12 & 15, 2026

## Ice Breaker

What's the most memorable award, recognition, or achievement you received in school (like a cord at graduation, a trophy, or even a gold star), and how did it make you feel when you received it?

## Key Verses

- 1 Corinthians 9:24-25
- 2 Timothy 4:7-8
- James 1:12
- Revelation 2:10
- 1 Peter 5:1-4
- 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20
- Revelation 22:12

## Questions

1. The pastor distinguished between exegesis (letting Scripture shape our beliefs) and eisegesis (finding Scripture to support our existing beliefs). Can you think of an area where you might have practiced eisegesis without realizing it?
2. How does the concept of earning literal crowns and rewards in heaven challenge or confirm your previous understanding of eternal life?
3. Of the five crowns mentioned (self-control, shepherd/pastor, rejoicing, righteousness, crown of life), which one resonates most with you and why?
4. The symbols of achievement are given to those who overcome. What do you think you might need to overcome in your current season of life?
5. How might knowing about these specific rewards change the way you approach difficult circumstances or trials?

6. The pastor shared about his wife's faithfulness during their son's cancer battle. How can knowledge of eternal rewards help us persevere when life gets overwhelming?
7. Paul encouraged believers to run to win the prize. What practical steps can you take this week to run your race more intentionally?

## Life Application

This week, identify one specific area where you need to “overcome”—whether it’s a habit, attitude, trial, or challenge you’re facing. Ask God to strengthen you and help you grow through it. Each day, remind yourself that your perseverance and faithfulness in this area could result in eternal rewards, and let that truth motivate you to keep pressing forward even when it’s difficult.

## Key Takeaways

1. Seeking eternal rewards is not selfish but biblical - God encourages believers to run the race to win the prize
2. There are five specific crowns believers can earn: self-control, shepherd/pastor, rejoicing (evangelism/discipleship), righteousness (eagerly awaiting Christ's return), and life (enduring trials)
3. Symbols of achievement are given to overcomers—those who persevere through their unique trials and challenges. It’s okay to ask God to remove our difficulties, but if He chooses not to, we can trust that He may be working through them for a greater purpose.
4. These rewards are literal, not metaphorical, and will be given at Christ's second coming as recognition for faithful service
5. Knowledge of eternal rewards should motivate believers to persevere through difficult times and live faithfully, knowing that Jesus sees their sacrifice and has prepared specific honors for them

## **Ending Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank You for the incredible truth that You have prepared specific rewards for those who faithfully serve You and overcome the challenges You allow in their lives. Help us to run our race with endurance, keeping our eyes fixed on the prizes You have set before us. When we face trials, remind us that You are watching and that our perseverance matters for eternity. Give us strength to overcome whatever You have placed in our path, knowing that You will reward our faithfulness. May we encourage one another to press on toward the goal and the crowns that await us. We look forward to that day when we will see You face to face and hear You say, 'Well done.' Until then, help us to live worthy of the calling You have placed on our lives. In Your precious name, Amen.