The Cross Before The CrownThe Lamb before The KingThe Man before The Bridegroom

**INTRODUCTION—Christ was crowned for the Cross**

Adam had the Tree of Life available to him every day, but was more interested in other things. Not everyone is going to want God’s glory and become ONE with His Son, especially through a cross bearing experience, but there is a calling that goes out to all.

1. The Crowning for Christ was determined because of our disobedience.
2. *” with the crown wherewith his mother crowned him”*
   1. The Source – of the Crowning

*“wherewith his mother crowned him”*

*Some believe the Jewish Church- some humanity—The whole world crowned Him.*

* 1. The Meaning – The Crown—Jesus was crowned with our sin that He would be our sacrifice and we could be justified

The crown that humanity gave Jesus is THE CROWN OF 4inch THORNS

Crowning would indicate winner or first –

Jesus became all that we were, indicated by a crown – Not of honor – but of Shame

He became the head of all sin, first, before us, what we were, The shame of the Cross

Gal. 1:4—*Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:*

1John 2:2—*And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

2Cor. 5:21*—For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

1John 3:7*—Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.*

2Cor. 8:9*—For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*

Heb 2:10*—For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

Heb 5:8***—****Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;* **Php 2:8*—And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross***

1. The Crowning for us will be determined through obedience in suffering.

1Peter 5:10—*But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

1Cor. 9:25*—And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.*

Rom. 8:17*— And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

2Tim2:12*—If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us*

1. *an incorruptible Crown*

*Php 4:1—Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.*

1. *A Soul winner’s Crown*

*1Th 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?*

1. *Crown of Rejoicing*

*2Ti 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

1. *A Crown of Righteousness*

*Jas 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

*Re 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

1. *The Crown of Life*

*1Pe 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

1. *A Crown of Glory*

*Re 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*

1. **The Calling to the Crown**
   1. There is Grace with the Calling

God’s all Sufficient Grace is for you to make it. *“But the God of all grace”*

2Cor.12:9*—And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

1. He knew God called him to preach and even to suffer, but he learned better and more clearly of God’s will through suffering.

2Cor. 4:15*—For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.*

1. When you are going through hard times, believe for God’s grace. He has ALL we need.
2. “of many” –Others can benefit from our meekness in suffering. Paul had a thorn in his flesh to keep him humble. We in turn benefit from Paul’s suffering in that we now see an example of God’s grace at work.

2Cor. 8:9*—For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*

2Cor. 9:8*—And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

Romans 16:24*—The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

2Cor.13:14*—The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.*

1. “you all” –God is calling me!
2. Move my faith toward His grace, He will give what I Believe Him for.

It will be according to my faith.

1. There is a lot to receive and it is going to take all the grace of God to receive it.

Eph 6:24*—Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.*

1. Be real, honest, consistent🡪God’s grace is given to those that are!

Php 4:23*—The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

2Thes. 3:18*—The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

1. Prevenient Grace
2. Illuminating Grace
3. Saving Grace
4. Justifying Grace
5. Enabling Grace
6. Sustaining Grace
7. Refreshing Grace
8. Comforting Grace
9. Restoring Grace
10. Growing Grace
11. Enduring Grace
12. Sanctifying Grace
13. Living Grace
14. Dying Grace
15. Grace to be Watchful
16. Grace to be Sober
17. Grace to Resist
    1. There are Stages in the Calling

Infancy 🡪 Child

The Holy Ghost infilling brings you from an infant to a child. This is a greater experience added to salvation.

Cadet 🡪 Solider

Child 🡪 Son

A ‘child’ has not yet ‘arrived. Must climb higher and draw closer to Christ’s stature.

* 1. There is a Climax to the Calling

We will not understand this ‘climax’ by just reading our Bible.

* + - 1. Christ is the Ideal to Behold.

The calling is to HIS glory. Without His example to behold, we would be totall in the dark and blind to what to do and how to do concerning pleasing God.

Is there any difference in nature between the Father and the Son? No, not in holiness, righteousness, goodness, etc.

(Heb 1:3) Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

* + - 1. Christ is the Example to Follow.

Christ’s glory should become our experience. In the Gospels Christ commanded the disciples “follow me” and “know the truth”. (there is a process—**made** free and not *set* free.)

When the head directs, the body should move!

No matter how much false there is, there is still a real: JESUS!

(2Co 3:18) But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Seek more and more.

(Mat 5:48) Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

We have been called FROM the **lowest** TO the **highest**.

(Eph 4:13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

There is only one Son (Father-Son-Holy Ghost), YET he will bring many “sons” unto glory (Heb. 2:10). He will have a people that will become one with Him.

* 1. There are Requirements in the Calling.

(Matthew 22:14) For many are called, but few *are* chosen.

* + - 1. Obedience is required
         1. Answer the call
         2. Rely only on His Grace
         3. Give Him all the Love, Praise and the Glory.

1. **The Course to the Crown**
   1. The Reality of Suffering & Conflict

There will be conflict.

* + - 1. Kinds of Conflict
    1. INWARD: personal, emotional, intellectual.
    2. OUTWARD: family, World, physical
    3. SPIRITUAL: devil, Spirit

God doesn’t tempt us, but the devil certainly will.,

The thing Job feared came upon him. Ps. 40:12 ‘innumerable evils have compassed me about’ 🡪could not ‘look up.’ That is a horrible pit of depression when you cannot ‘look up.’

2. There must be conviction to overcome the conflicts.

* 1. The Reason for Suffering & Conflict

The course to the crown is through suffering. God’s purpose is to make you perfect. He allows suffering for a TEST or to PROVE you.

* + 1. Test of Faith
    2. Test of Patience
    3. Test of Obedience
    4. Test of Faithfulness
  1. The Results of Suffering & Conflict

(1Pe 5:10) But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you.*

The crown is worth any suffering we have to go through.

No amount of suffering should hinder us from seeking the crown.

**CONCLUSION**

1. To be one with Him, we must be LIKE Him and unlike Him in only one point = He alone is GOD.
2. You need all of the grace of God working in your life.

**Song 3:11 Go forth, O ye daughters of Zion, and behold king Solomon with the crown wherewith his mother crowned him in the day of his espousals, and in the day of the gladness of his heart.**

1. The **Espousals** – (Plural) “Many Sons” becoming one with the Son of God
2. “*him in the day of his espousals, and in the day of the gladness of his heart”*
   1. The Meaning – (no loose thing)

*A binding agreement – but Espousal and Marriage are two different things*

**BETROTHAL** — An Act of Engagement for marriage and was as binding as marriage but is not the same as marriage. A Mutual promise or contract for a future marriage.

Espousal is for right now and marriage is to take place at the Throne.

The selection of the bride was followed by the **betrothal**, not to be entirely equated with the modern concept of engagement.

A **betrothal** was undertaken by a friend or agent representing the bridegroom and by the parents representing the bride. It was confirmed by oaths and was accompanied with presents to the bride and often to the bride’s parents.

**John 3:29**—*He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.*

**2Cor. 11:2***—For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

The **betrothal** was celebrated by a feast. In some instances, it was customary for the bridegroom to place a ring, a token of love and fidelity, on the bride’s finger. In Hebrew custom, **betrothal** was actually part of the marriage process. A change of intention by one of the partners after he or she was **betrothed** was a serious matter, subject in some instances to penalty by fine or by death.

* *Not all believers become the Bride*
* *Only those that are faithful to the Written agreement – THE WORD OF GOD*

*If you break that agreement, the Contract is no good.*

* *Present you as a Chaste Virgin to Christ*
  1. The Results
     1. United with Bridegroom –
     2. The Bridegroom made Happy

The most important instance of **betrothal** in the Bible between man and woman is the one between Joseph and Mary

Mat. 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was **espoused** to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

A Jewish **betrothal** could be dissolved only by the man giving the woman a certificate of divorce.

A **betrothal** usually lasted for one year. During that year the couple was known as husband and wife.

**Betrothal** was much more closely linked with marriage than our modern engagement.

But the actual marriage took place only when the bridegroom took the bride to his home and the marriage was consummated.

**Deut. 20:7**—*And what man is there that hath* ***betrothed*** *a wife, and hath not taken her? let him go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man take her.*

**2Sam. 3:14**—*And David sent messengers to Ishbosheth Saul's son, saying, Deliver me my wife Michal, which I* ***espoused*** *to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines.*

**Jer 2:2***—Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine* ***espousals,*** *when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown.*

**Mat. 1:18**—*Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was* ***espoused*** *to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.*

**Luke 1:27**—*To a virgin* ***espoused*** *to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.*

**Luke 2:5**—*To be taxed with Mary his* ***espoused wife****, being great with child.*

**2Cor. 11:2**—*For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have* ***espoused*** *you to one husband, that I may present you as* ***a chaste virgin to Christ***.

1Co 1:9*—God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord*

Eph 3:9*—And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:*

1John 1:3*—That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

John 17:21*—That they* ***all*** *may* ***be one****; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

Isaiah 53:11*—He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*

Hebrews 12:2*—Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

* + 1. The Bride also will be made Happy

*Song 3:11 Go forth, O ye daughters of Zion, and behold king Solomon with the crown wherewith his mother crowned him in the day of his espousals,* ***and in the day of the gladness of his heart.***

* + - 1. There will be Perfect obedience
      2. There will be Perfect Submission
      3. There will be Perfect Fellowship

John17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

John 17:22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

1John 1:4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

2John 1:12 Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

Rev. 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Psalm 4:6 There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.

7 Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased.

16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

17:15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

1Peter 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Rev.19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

**He is in the process of creating in us all that we should be,**

**Our growth in God is dependent on our Revelation of Him.**

**If we are going to see Him in all that He is, we will have to see Him for our self.**