

6/17-23 #5 Receiving the Kingdom Reward of Christ as the Crown of Righteousness

I In order for us to enjoy Christ as our kingdom reward, we must love the Lord's appearing, which is His appearing and manifestation to us today and His presence with His people at His second coming, by staying on the constricted way of being watchful in life and faithful in service to be constituted as the bride of Christ: [2 Tim. 4:1](#) I solemnly charge *you* before God and Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: [7](#) I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith. [8](#) Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing. **A** Loving the Lord's appearing and loving the Lord Himself are inseparable. **B** In the prophetic picture presented in 2 Timothy 3:2-5 of Christianity in decline, four particular kinds of lovers are mentioned: lovers of self, lovers of money, lovers of pleasure, and lovers of God; whatever one loves, his whole heart, even his entire being, is set on and occupied and possessed by; this is crucial! **C** Whether there would be a day of glory in the church's victory or grievous days of the church's decline depends altogether on what kind of lovers we are; history tells us that the root of the church's decline was the loss of her first love toward the Lord. **D** To maintain the victorious standard of the church, we must be lovers of God for the fulfillment of God's economy; the Lord has promised to give the crown of life and the inheritance of the kingdom to those who love Him. [James 1:12](#) Blessed is the man who endures trial, because when he has become approved by testing, he will receive the crown of life, which He promised to those who love Him. [2:5](#) Listen, my beloved brothers: Did not God choose the poor in the world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which He promised to those who love Him? **E** The incorruptible crown is a symbol of glory and beauty given as a prize, in addition to the Lord's salvation, to the triumphant runner of the Christian race: **I** This prize is neither of grace nor by faith, as salvation is, but of righteousness through works. **2** The crown of righteousness will be awarded not according to the grace of the Lord but according to His righteousness, and the One who awards it will be the Lord as the righteous Judge. **II** In order to be awarded with Christ as our crown of righteousness in the next age, we must experience and enjoy Him as our subjective, lived-out righteousness in this age: [Phil. 3:9](#) And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God *and* based on faith, **A** There are two aspects of Christ being righteousness to the believers: **I** Christ is our objective righteousness for us to be justified

before God at the time of our repenting unto God and believing into Christ. [Rom. 3:24](#) Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; **2** Christ is also our subjective righteousness as the living out and genuine expression of Christ, which is the transcendent condition of expressing God by living Christ.

B These two aspects of righteousness are typified by the two garments of the queen in Psalm 45:13-14: [Psa. 45:13](#) The king's daughter is all glorious within *the royal abode*; / Her garment is a woven work inwrought with gold. [14](#) She will be led to the King in embroidered *clothing*; / The virgins behind her, her companions, / Will be brought to You.

1 One garment corresponds to the objective righteousness, which is for our salvation—"her garment is a woven work inwrought with gold" (13b): **a** This signifies that the Christ who has been dealt with through many sufferings and through death and resurrection becomes the righteousness of the church to meet the righteous requirement of God for her to be justified before God. **b**

Her being covered with gold signifies the church's appearing in the divine nature. **2** The other garment corresponds with the subjective righteousnesses, which are for our victory—"she will be led to the King in embroidered clothing" (14a): **a** The overcoming believers are Christ's corporate queen, taking Christ as their royal abode for them to be found in Christ and for Him to become their subjective righteousness. **b** This embroidered clothing, another garment, the second layer of her covering, signifies that the church will be led to Christ at their marriage clothed with the righteousnesses of the saints to meet the requirement of Christ for their marriage. **c**

The raiment of embroidered work is the subjective Christ woven into our character, embroidered into our being, to be our lived-out righteousness. **d** This embroidery signifies the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, who is working day by day to embroider Christ into us stitch by stitch to be our wedding garment. **e** The degraded recovered church needs to pay the price to live Christ as her subjective righteousness that she may be clothed with Christ as her God-approved conduct. **III** "The Lord will ...save me into His heavenly kingdom" (2 Tim. 4:18): **A** The heavenly kingdom, which equals the crown of righteousness, is "the kingdom of their Father", "the kingdom of My Father", "the kingdom of Christ and of God", and "the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ", which will be a reward to the overcoming saints. **B** The overcoming believers will participate in the heavenly kingdom, the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens: [Matt. 7:21](#)

Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens. **1** As "the righteous," the sons of the kingdom, the overcomers will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. [13:43](#) Then the

righteous will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father...² In the heavenly kingdom the overcomers will drink the cup of the new covenant anew with their Lord. ³ In the kingdom of their Father the overcoming believers will feast with the Old Testament overcomers. ⁴ To the overcomers the heavenly kingdom will be a joyful inheritance. ⁵ In the heavenly kingdom the overcomers will inherit eternal life and thereby have a fuller enjoyment of the divine life. ⁶ In the heavenly kingdom the overcomers will enter into the Lord's joy and thus gain their soul, save their soul, and enjoy the salvation of their soul. Matt. 25:21 His master said to him, *Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.* Rev. 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. ⁷ In the heavenly kingdom the overcoming believers will reign with Christ and rule over the nations.

CP1 Realizing that the Lord will come as a righteous Judge at His return, watch and prepare today

In order for us to enjoy Christ as our kingdom reward, we must love the Lord's appearing, which is His appearing and manifestation to us today and His presence with His people at His second coming, by staying on the constricted way of being watchful in life and faithful in service to be constituted as the bride of Christ. 2Tim. 4:7 I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing. ^D To maintain the victorious standard of the church, we must be lovers of God for the fulfillment of God's economy; the Lord has promised to give the crown of life and the inheritance of the kingdom to those who love Him. James 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures trial, because when he has become approved by testing, he will receive the crown of life, which He promised to those who love Him. 2:5 Listen, my beloved brothers: Did not God choose the poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which He promised to those who love Him? ^E The incorruptible crown is a symbol of glory and beauty given as a prize, in addition to the Lord's salvation, to the triumphant runner of the Christian race: ¹ This prize is neither of grace nor by faith, as salvation is, but of righteousness through works. ² The crown of righteousness will be awarded not according to the grace of the Lord but according to His righteousness, and the One who awards it will be the Lord as the righteous Judge.

The crown of righteousness of which Paul was assured is the incentive to the inoculator. If we are faithful to the healthy word of the truth, and if we are faithful inoculators to dispense the ingredients of the divine inoculation into Christians today that they may return to the full knowledge of the truth, this reward will be given to us at the time of the Lord's appearing. This means that if we are faithful to the Lord's ministry, we will receive the crown of righteousness as our reward.

There is a great deal of talk among Christians today concerning the Lord's second coming. But not many believers realize that when the Lord Jesus comes back, He will not come as the merciful God or as the gracious Savior but as the righteous Judge. Christians should be warned and encouraged to prepare themselves to stand before this Judge.

Application to young people, college students, new ones

Testimony 1 When I heard the message of waiting for the Lord's return, I had the desire to be one who waits for His return as well. However, there was also a part of me that wanted Him to wait a little longer. I felt that I was not ready yet. When the Lord returns, He will come as a righteous judge. So we need to receive this warning daily, be encouraged, and move forward. There is now the practice of the reading of the Life Study in the church, and through this practice, I hope to be further equipped with the truth and constituted as the Bride of Christ.

Testimony 2 Brother Yoriki told me that without the presence of the Lord in the church life, we would have nothing, and I prayed and asked for the presence of the Lord myself. One day, when I took the train to go to the gospel preaching, I gave up my seat to a mother with an infant. At that moment, I had a sense from within that I should contact her. I was puzzled for a moment and said, "I just gave up my seat, other people are watching and it's hard to ask. I'm almost at the station where I get off and I don't have time," I told the Lord these excuses. The Lord responded, "If she misses this, she will never have another chance to hear the gospel. Won't you regret it? As I was about to reach the station, I wrote my phone number on her hand, and said, "Please register this phone number to your cell phone." and got off the train. I had fulfilled what the Lord had told me to do, so I thought I could leave the rest to Him. Shortly thereafter, she contacted me, saying "I

have registered. Thank you very much". I was able to preach the gospel with a clear feeling because I had obeyed the Lord's speaking to me. I then invited her to a children's meeting. She came and we were able to preach the gospel. There are manifestations of the Lord in our daily living. I felt that those who love the Lord's appearance need to follow the anointing.

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, You are coming again.

Those who love and seek His return can enjoy Christ as the reward of the Kingdom. We need to prepare now for the future appearing of the Lord. Let us remain on the narrow path, be awake in life and faithful in service.

CP2 Dealing with unrighteousness, falsehood, and being transformed, putting on embroidered clothes, and subjectively live out the righteousness of Christ

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Phil. 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,...

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b Her being covered with gold signifies the church's appearing in the divine nature. **2** The other garment corresponds with the subjective righteousnesses, which are for our victory — "she will be led to the King in embroidered clothing"(14a):

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requirement of Christ for their marriage. **c** The raiment of embroidered work is the subjective Christ woven into our character, embroidered into our being, to be our lived-out righteousness. **d** This embroidery signifies the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, who is working day by day to embroider Christ into us stitch by stitch to be our wedding garment. **e** The degraded recovered church needs to pay the price to live Christ as her subjective righteousness that she may be clothed with Christ as her God-approved conduct.

Although we have the first garment, our second garment is now being prepared under the embroidering work of the Holy Spirit. This garment will qualify us to see Christ at His judgment seat. Day by day we are under the needle, the transformation, of the Holy Spirit. How we need this second garment! This is a serious matter.

However serious this matter may be, most Christians care only for the first garment. Some even say, "As long as we are justified, redeemed, and saved, everything is all right." Do not listen to this. You may be all right as far as salvation is concerned, but what about the reward? You not only need justification ---you also need approval. When you appear before the judgment seat of Christ, will He approve of you?

Application to businesspersons, graduate students

Testimony I received help from the following Scriptures concerning living a life of expressing righteousness as a believer. Matt.5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens. **FT**

Righteousness here does not refer only to objective righteousness, which is the Christ whom we receive when we believe in Him and are thus justified before God; it refers even more to subjective righteousness, which is the indwelling Christ lived out of us as our righteousnessIt is impossible for our natural life to gain this surpassing righteousness; it can be produced only by a higher life, the resurrection life of Christ. This righteousness, which is likened to the wedding garment, qualifies us to participate in the wedding of the Lamb and inherit the kingdom of the heavens in its manifestation, that is, to enter into the kingdom of the heavens in the future.

Reading this portion has given me the desire to live righteousness in a way of living out Christ.

As I began to have this desire, the Lord enlightened the fact that I was making insincere statements and was trying to cover up my mistakes in conversations with others. [1Cor.2:10](#) But to us God has revealed them through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. As I prayed and thought about this, the Spirit searched inside me and revealed to me that there are always so many lies in my conversations. And I found that these untrue conversations could not be dealt with by my own determination but required a transformation of the Spirit. I have often prayed the following prayer, "Lord Jesus, I am a sinner constituted with sin. There is nothing good in me. I lie consciously or unconsciously. Even without bad intentions, in the light of the Lord these are nothing but lies. I also can't make up my mind to fix this bad habit. Instead of setting the mind on the flesh, I set it on the spirit. I open to You, turn to You, and look upon You. Lord, transform each part of my soul, mind, emotions, and will gradually."

Thank the Lord. Through this kind of prayer and looking unto the Lord, I came to realize when I lied in daily life, I immediately repented and confessed my sins. Little by little, I began to be able to speak truthfully and to add weight to the conversation. [Eph.4:25](#) Therefore having put off the lie, speak truth each one with his neighbor, ...[27](#) Neither give place to the devil. Especially in business, in communicating with MHLW executives, executives at the US headquarters, etc., the Lord used my sincere conversation, without lies, to overcome many difficult situations. I believe that not lying in conversation is an aspect of believers living out righteousness.

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, I need to live out the indwelling Christ as my righteousness, but righteousness is not being lived out in my living. Please enlighten my unnoticed falsehood, deceptions, and self-righteousness. Make me confess each enlightened sin one by one and be the one who subjectively lives out the righteousness of Christ. May I gradually be transformed into one who speaks the truth, and may I put on the clothes embroidered by the Holy Spirit.

神戸に在る召会交わりと報告事項

1. **大阪・桃谷訪問ブレンディング:**
6/22(土)各地区9:00出発、14:30頃戻る車で行きます。車代は1人500円です。時間を贖い取り、ぜひ近隣の諸召会とのブレンディングに参加しましょう!
 2. **朝毎の食物進捗について:**
国際華語特別集会の次は、4月ITEROの内容を追求します。全8メッセージの内、#1、2、5、7の4メッセージを追求します。
 3. **2024年SST(真理のサマースクール):**
8/12(月)-17(土)東京基臨ビルで行われます。申し込み締切は6/30(主)まで延長になりました。現在神戸からは12名の青少年が申し込んでいます。若者たちが時間を聖別して、真理の中に入り込み、仲間たちと共に主をエンジョイすることができるように兄弟姉妹お祈りください。
 4. **姉妹集会:毎週水曜**
新人や友人が来やすくなるように、また、姉妹たちのブレンディングや、からだの機能がさらに引き上げられるために以下のように集会の時間を変更しました。

10:00-30	追求
10:30-40	詩歌賛美
10:40-11:30	福音もしくは訪問
11:30-12:15	詩歌エンジョイ(録音)

その後も残りたい姉妹たちは、お昼を持参してブレンディングすることもできます。
- 今後のスケジュール**
- | | |
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| 6/19 | 魚崎 |
| 6/26 | 三宮・神戸 |
| 7/3 | 西宮・夙川 |
5. **福音の枠組み:**

第一大地区
本山…金曜日10:30-12:30
魚崎…火曜日13:00-15:00
夙川…第一と第三水曜日17:00-19:00
第二大地区
六甲…木曜日15:00-17:00
三宮・神戸…土曜日15:00-17:00