

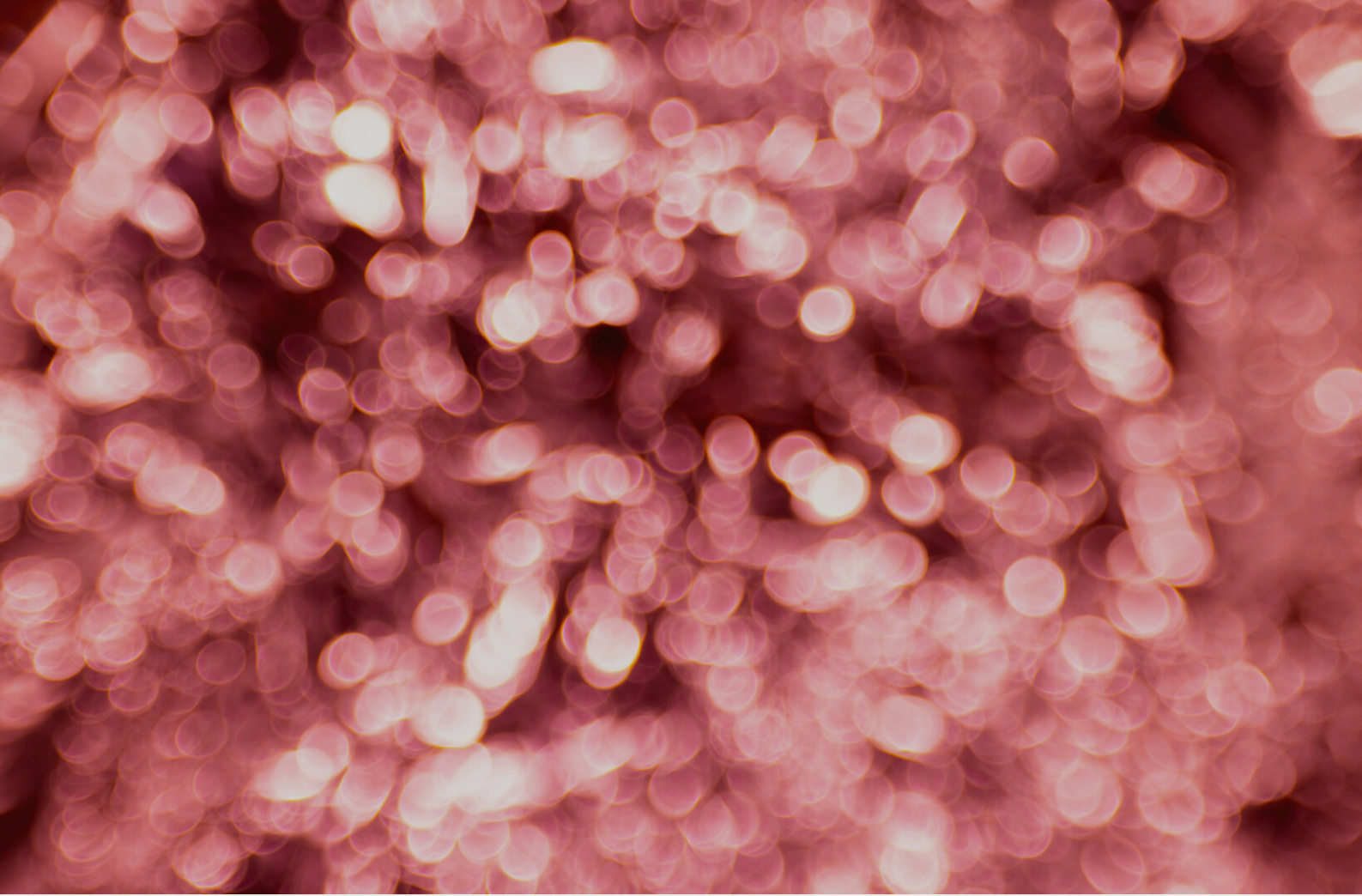
UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 54 (PART 2)

THE SAINT'S REWARDS

IN THE MILLENNIAL
KINGDOM, PART 2

REVELATION 20:4-6

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In the gospels and in the Book of Revelation, Jesus took time to teach about eternal rewards because it is important for believers to know. His heart is for us to receive rewards.

There are three reasons why He does so:



1. REWARDS ARE PART OF OUR DESTINY AND INHERITANCE.

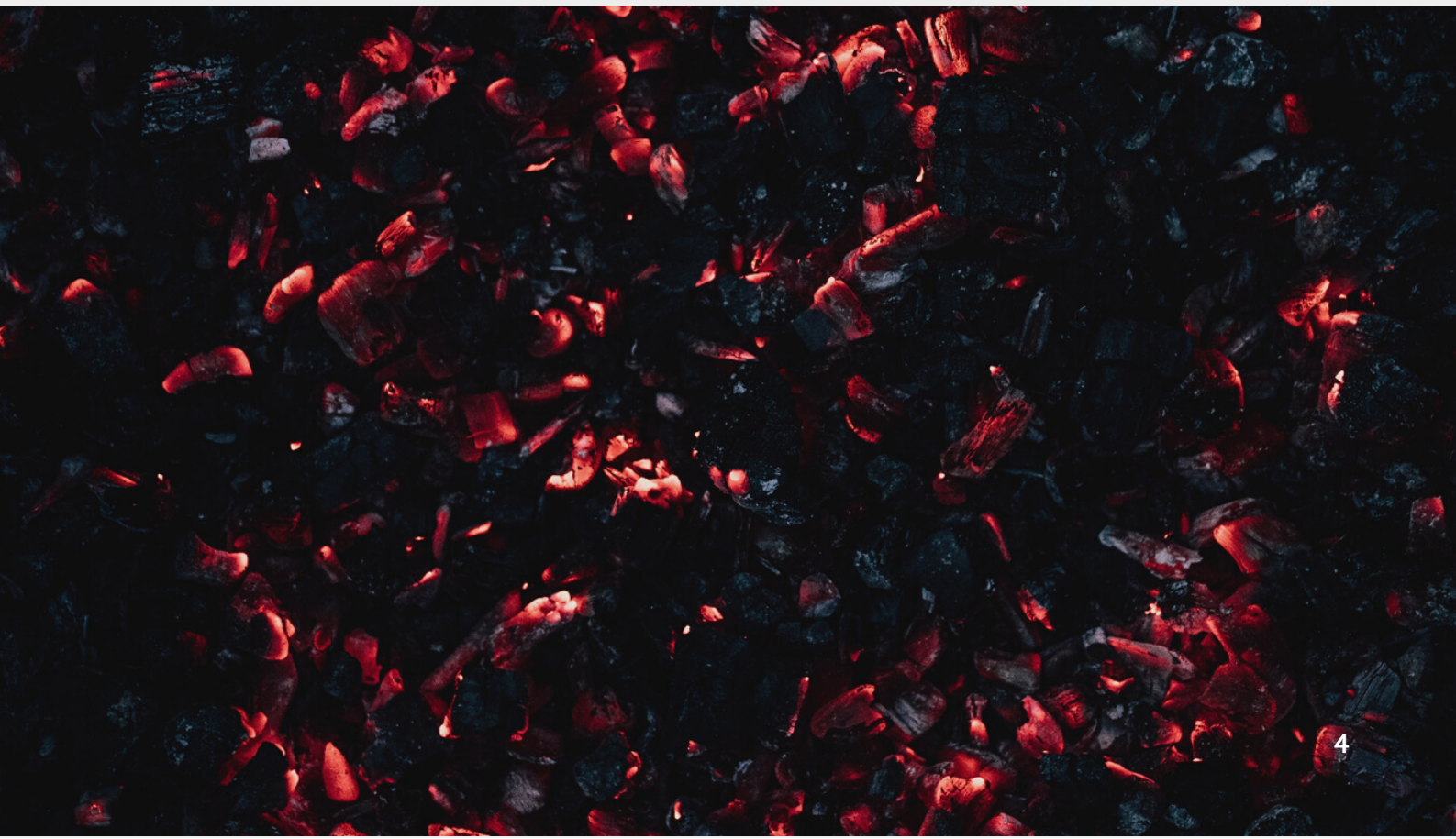
God wants to give us rewards. He does not want us to miss out on them. They are not secondary or irrelevant to our Christian life and will be with us throughout eternity!

2. JESUS WANTS US TO KNOW HOW ETERNAL REWARDS ARE GIVEN.

Rewards are given to us according to our works, our faithfulness, obedience and how we serve the call that Jesus has given us in this life. He wants us to have clarity about this issue so that we will have an eternal perspective and live differently for Him here on earth.

**3. JESUS TEACHES ON REWARDS
TO MOTIVATE AND STABILISE US AS WE
FACE CRISIS AND PERSECUTION.**

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There are **22 different rewards** in the Book of Revelation, mainly in Revelation 2 and 3. Jesus not only listed them out, but He also taught us how to get them. The key to receiving rewards is to **cultivate the seven areas of spiritual maturity** that Jesus is looking for in the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3 and to overcome those areas of compromise in our personal lives.

Here are **six important truths** about eternal rewards:

1. WHY DOES JESUS REWARD US?

- a. **Jesus rewards us because our choices and acts of love and obedience matter deeply to Him. His heart is deeply moved by our love and obedience.** What we do in secret, out of the inner motivations of our hearts, will be openly rewarded in eternity.
- b. **Jesus rewards us because He is just.** He will not be unjust to forget our works, our obedience and our faithfulness.

2. EACH ONE OF US WILL BE DIFFERENT IN THE MEASURE OR DEGREE OF GLORY.

We are equally loved by God, but each of us will have different rewards and different measures or degrees of glory, depending on how we live in this age. Our aim is to be great in the kingdom of heaven.

Have you heard believers who say, *"It's okay; I just need to love Jesus. I don't need rewards."* This is not true. At the judgement seat before entering into eternity, there will be regret, and the weeping and gnashing of teeth for many when we realise that we have lost out on rewards which we could have gained had we lived our lives differently (Rev. 3:11).



3. THE FULLNESS OF RECEIVING OUR REWARDS IS IN THE AGE-TO-COME, THOUGH WE MAY RECEIVE SOME IN THIS AGE.

4. WE DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE REWARDS – THERE ARE CONDITIONS LAID DOWN BY GOD.

The Bible has laid down clearly how we can get rewards such as thrones and crowns. We need to be in the know. For example, if we want to inherit the earth, we need to be meek. And if we have led someone to Christ, we will receive the crown of rejoicing.

5. DEPENDING ON OUR DILIGENCE, THERE WILL BE VARYING DEGREES OF FRUITFULNESS AND REWARDS (MATT. 13:23).

6. GOD IS EXTRAVAGANT AND HE PAYS WELL.

There is a great divine exchange. We just have to be faithful with a little, and God will pay with much (Heb. 6:10; Matt. 19:29; 25:21–23; Luke 19:17).

REWARDS IN THE BIBLE CAN BE GROUPED INTO 10 DIFFERENT CATEGORIES:

1. **GLORIOUS RESURRECTED BODY** **(1 COR. 15:50-52)**

Those who overcome will receive a glorious resurrected body like that of Jesus, but to a lesser degree of glory (Phil. 3:21). The degree of brightness and glory of the resurrected body will be different for different people, depending on how we live our lives and run our race (1 Cor. 15:40).



2. INTIMACY WITH JESUS – PROXIMITY TO JESUS AND THE DEGREE OF REVELATION OF HIS HEART

There will be millions or billions of people with resurrected bodies in eternity. Some will be standing nearer to Jesus, some further away. Though God loves us equally, the rewards are not the same. There is a hierarchy in heaven.

To the Church of Philadelphia, Jesus offers a reward of making the overcomer a pillar in the temple of God. He further promises to write on him the name of the Father and His own name. This means that the person will be given a greater measure of revelation of who He is and of knowing His heart!



3. ETERNAL ASSIGNMENT AND CALLING – THRONES, AUTHORITY AND POWER

The hope of our calling in Ephesians 1:18 is primarily referring to the eternal calling and assignment we will have. This includes thrones, authority and power. The two main roles of the saints, kings and priests, are associated with the positions of authority, power and rulership.

The reward for the overcomer who is faithful till the end in Revelation 2:26 is a position of authority and power over the nations. To the lukewarm believer who overcomes and becomes zealous for God's fullness for his life, God grants to sit with Him on the throne!

4. HEAVENLY PRAISE AND HONOUR (1 PET. 1:7; 1 COR. 4:5; REV. 3:5,9)

To those who love Him wholeheartedly and are faithful and obedient till the end, God will publicly honour, praise and vindicate them!

5. CROWNS (REV. 2:10)

When we see Jesus face to face in all His worthiness, we can't help but want to offer Him something as worship. The purpose of crowns is for us to cast at His feet and offer Him as worship throughout eternity.

There are six types of crowns:

- a. **Crowns of life** (Rev. 2:10, Jas. 1:12) — given to those who endure persecution and overcome.

- b. **Crowns of righteousness** (2 Tim. 4:8) — given to those who live a life of godliness and righteousness.

- c. **Crowns of glory** (1 Pet. 5:4) — given to shepherds who are faithful and good.

- d. **Crowns of gold** (Rev. 4:4) — we are rewarded with crowns of gold as we grow and manifest fruits and evidence of redemption.

- e. **Crowns of rejoicing** (1 Thes. 2:19) — given when we lead people to Jesus.

- f. **Incorruptible or Imperishable crown** (1 Cor. 9:25) — given when we are faithful to our calling here on earth.



6. HEAVENLY GARMENTS OR WHITE GARMENTS (REV. 3:18; 19:8)

The degree of “whiteness” and glory of the garments for different people will be different, depending on our love, righteousness and obedience in this life.

7. HEAVENLY FOOD (REV. 2:7,17)

The overcomer who lives out first love for Jesus gets to eat from the specific tree of life that is located in the midst of the Paradise of God. This is a special privilege. Likewise, the overcomer who loves the truth and endures sound doctrine will be given the hidden manna. He will have a greater capacity to receive understanding of the Word of God.





8. LIFE IN JERUSALEM (REV. 3:12)

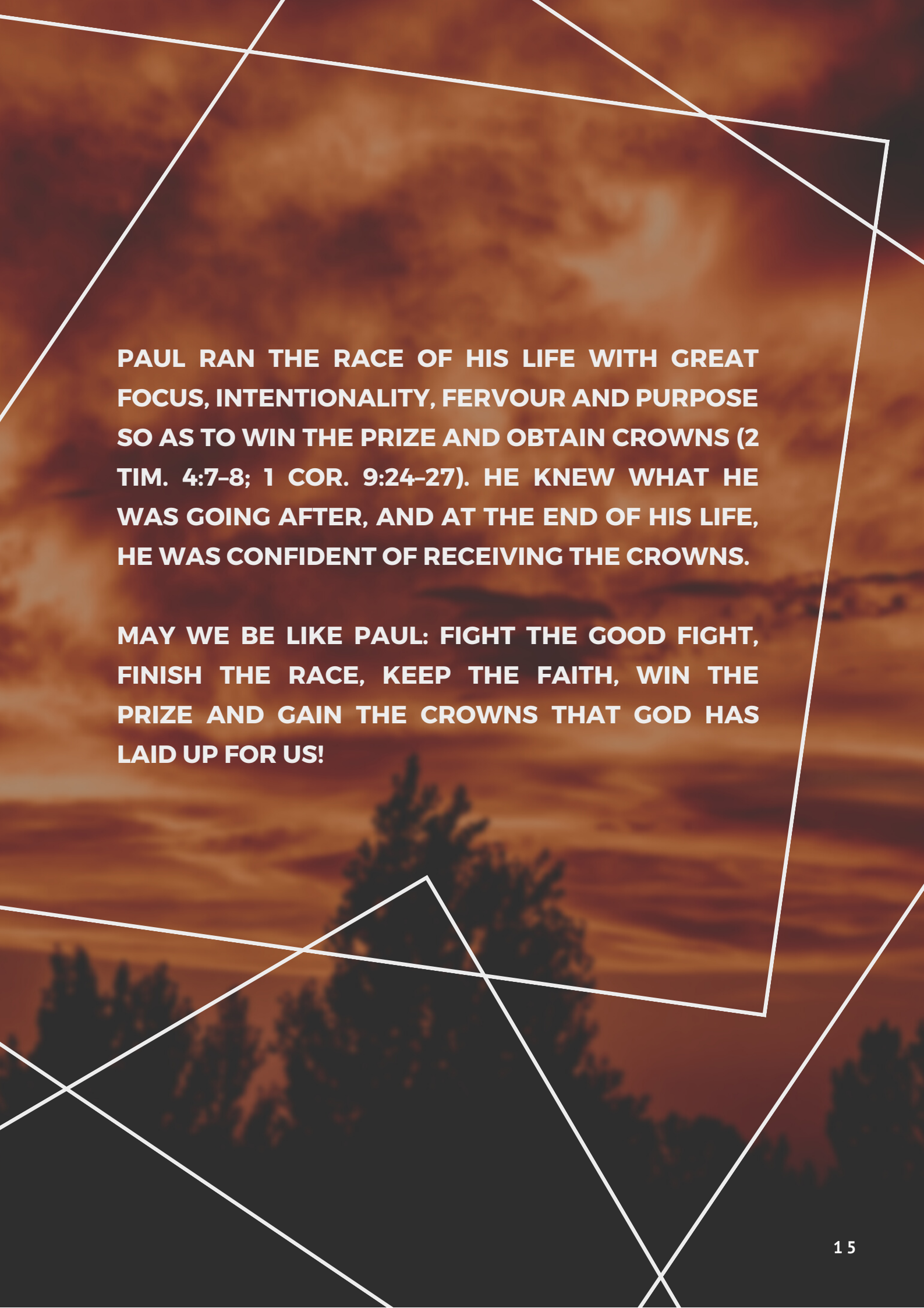
There will be different degrees of accessibility and understanding of New Jerusalem given to different ones who overcome.

9. TREASURES – GOLD (REV. 3:18)

Jesus counsels us to buy from Him gold and to acquire treasure in heaven that does not fail (Lk. 12:33).

10. WILL NOT BE HURT BY THE SECOND DEATH (REV. 20:6,14-15)

If we overcome and receive a resurrected body, we will not be judged at the Great White Throne Judgement and will not have to go through the second death, which is eternal separation from God in the lake of fire.



PAUL RAN THE RACE OF HIS LIFE WITH GREAT FOCUS, INTENTIONALITY, FERVOUR AND PURPOSE SO AS TO WIN THE PRIZE AND OBTAIN CROWNS (2 TIM. 4:7-8; 1 COR. 9:24-27). HE KNEW WHAT HE WAS GOING AFTER, AND AT THE END OF HIS LIFE, HE WAS CONFIDENT OF RECEIVING THE CROWNS.

MAY WE BE LIKE PAUL: FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, FINISH THE RACE, KEEP THE FAITH, WIN THE PRIZE AND GAIN THE CROWNS THAT GOD HAS LAID UP FOR US!



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