



1/14/2024 AM

## Introduction:

### I. GAINING CLOSURE (vs. 6)

#### A. Living above circumstances.

“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering...”

Numbers 15:1-10; 28:4-7  
Philippians 2:17

“Paul did not think of himself as going to be executed; he thought of himself as going to offer his life to God. His life was not being taken from him; he was laying it down. Ever since his conversion Paul had offered everything to God - his money, his scholarship, his strength, his time, the vigour of his body, the acuteness of his mind, the devotion of his passionate heart. Only life itself was left to offer, and gladly Paul was going to lay life down.”  
– William Barclay

#### B. Death as “departure”.

“and the time of my departure has come.”

#### C. Finishing well.

### II. GOING THE COURSE (vs. 7)

#### A. Fighting the fight.

“I have fought the good fight” (I Timothy 6:12)

#### B. Running the race.

“I have finished the course”

I Corinthians 9:24  
Hebrews 12:1-3  
Acts 20:24

#### C. Keeping the faith.

“I have kept the faith”

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

### III. GETTING THE CROWN (vs. 8)

#### A. The Reward

“in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness”

*stephanos vs. diadema*

#### Five Crowns:

##### Title:

imperishable crown  
crown of rejoicing  
crown of righteousness  
crown of life  
crown of glory

##### Reason:

leading a disciplined life  
evangelism and discipleship  
loving the Lord's appearing  
enduring trials  
shepherding God's flock faithfully

##### Reference:

1 Cor. 9:25  
1 Thess. 2:19  
2 Tim. 4:8  
James 1:12; Rev. 2:10  
1 Pet. 5:4

#### B. The Referee

“which the Lord, the righteous Judge will award to me on that day”

#### C. The Recipients

“and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing” James 1:12)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

#### Conclusion:

- 1) Holding to the faith requires long-haul faithfulness.
- 2) God never allows faithfulness to go unrewarded.
- 3) Death is the believer's last act of faith and greatest act of worship.
- 4) We need to choose our fights, but fight we must.

#### Food for Thought:

- 1) What feelings do you have when you contemplate death? Why?
- 2) What remains for you to do if you are to fulfill the ministry that God has ordained for you?
- 3) What is the imagery behind Paul's words, “I am being poured out as a drink offering”?
- 4) Do you *love* (not just know of, believe in, expect, anticipate, but really *love*) Christ's appearing?