## **INHERITANCE OF THE CHURCH**

Jesus inherited all created things from his Father (Heb 1:2) and will give portions of his inheritance (Luke 10:42; John 13:8) to his brothers and sisters for an eternal inheritance (Acts 20:32; 26:18; Eph 1:11; Col 3:24; Heb 9:15; 1 Peter 1:4).

Our inheritance consists of everything we will receive in the next life, such as a blessing, eternal life, the earth, the kingdom, rewards, glory and honor, special honors, new names, crowns, and diadems—everything promised by God:

(1) the promises of God (Heb 6:12), (2) a blessing (1 Peter 3:9), (3) eternal life (Matt 19:29; Rom 2:7; Titus 3:7; Heb 1:14; 1 Peter 3:7), 4) the earth (Matt 5:5), (5) entrance into and life in the millennial and eternal kingdoms of God

(Matt 5:3, 10; James 2:5; Rev 21:1–7), (6) glory and honor (Rom 2:7), (7) pure gold (Rev 3:18a) and treasure stored up in heaven (Matt 19:21; Mark 10:21; Luke 12:21, 33; 18:22; 1 Tim 6:19),

(8) payment for good works, rewards for service, or spiritual investments, such as showing hospitality (Matt 10:41–42), praying (Matt 6:6), preaching and teaching (1 Cor 3:12–15), almsgiving (Matt 6:4), and giving to missions (Phil 4:14–19),

(9) special honors for extraordinary accomplishments in *cosmos diabolicus* and in the angelic conflict (such as the crown of righteousness, crown of life, imperishable crown, and unfading crown of glory)

[note: payment for good works (service) is owed and cannot be lost (Matt 10:42; Rom 4:4; 1 Peter 1:4), but opportunities for pay can be lost (1 Cor 3:15); special honors (crowns and diadems) can be lost due to unfaithfulness and be given to someone more worthy (1 Cor 9:27; 2 John 8; Rev 3:11)], (10) job, ministry, or vocation serving Jesus and God the Father, such as priests in the millennial temple (Rev 3:12; cf. Ezek 44:10–16) and saints before the throne in the eternal Kingdom (Rev 22:3), (11) position, privilege, and access, such as receiving hidden manna, a white stone, new names, and being a pillar in the millennial temple (Heb 1:4; Rev 2:17; 3:12), (12) house and land to possess (Isa 49:8b; John 14:2–3; Heb 12:23; cf. Isa 65:9–10 and Zech 8:12 for Israel) and to rule over (Matt 19:28; Luke 22:30; Rev 21:24; cf. Rom 4:13 for Abraham) on the millennial and new earth, and

(13) authority and right to rule with Christ, such as receiving diadems for overcoming many enemies in spiritual warfare (2 Tim 2:12; Rev 2:26–27; 3:21; cf. Rom 8:35–37; 2 Cor 10:4–5; James 4:7; Rev 20:4).

Crowns (corona, στέφανοι) were wreaths made of grass, leaves, flowers, wood, or gold in ancient Greece and Rome; diadems (diadema, διάδημα) were headbands often made of white cloth or gold in the Greco-Roman Empire.

Eternal life is a free gift of grace (Rom 6:23; Eph 2:8–9); payment for service and honors such as crowns and diadems are given on the basis of merit.

	REWARDS —				DIADEMS
TREASURE	CROWNS —				
 FOR SERVICE	FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS	FOR TESTING	 FOR SELF-DISCIPLINE	FOR RULING	FOR OVERCOMING
heavenly treasure and pure gold	crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:8)	crown of life (James 1:12; Rev 2:10)	imperishable crown (1 Cor 9:25)	unfading crown of glory (1 Peter 5:4)	diadems (rule with Christ)
pay or wages (μισθός) for good works (Matt 6:4, 6, 18;16:27; Luke 14:14; Rom 4:4; 2 Cor 5:10; Rev 22:12)	reward (μισθός) or special honor for living a righteous life now in the angelic conflict (Matt 5:10; 6:1) and for loving the appearing	reward (μισθός) or special honor for persevering in testing (victory in passing tests) and loving the Lord Jesus	special honor for self- discipline that leads to victory in spiritual warfare (we are not athletes competing in games but soldiers fighting)	special honor for shepherding or ruling well in a local church never loses its brightness	highest honor for enduring suffering (2 Tim 2:12), faithfully doing the good works Jesus wants you to do to the end of your life, and for overcoming many enemies
and for spiritual investments (Matt 6:20; Phil 4:17; 1 Tim 6:19; Rev 2:9; 3:18)	of Jesus (probably his second coming) to establish a righteous kingdom on earth (2 Tim 4:8)	every believer is eligible (James 1:12), not just martyrs (Rev 2:10)	every believer is eligible  all of the crowns are imperishable (cf. 1 Peter 1:4)	only elders with leadership (ruling) spiritual gifts are eligible	in spiritual warfare (Rev 2:26—27; cf. Eph 2:10) only men with leadership (ruling) spiritual gifts are eligible
every believer is eligible stored in heaven (Matt 6:20; 1 Tim 6:19)	every believer is eligible  a righteous life consists of positional (imputed, 2 Cor 5:21),	memorializes forever a life of faithfulness and endurance in persecution (Matt 5:11–12; Luke 6:22–23; Heb 10:34–35),	can be lost without self-discipline and a goal (1 Cor 9:27)	memorializes forever their godly rule (voluntary, eager, not for money, not lording it over people,	many worn by Jesus at his second coming (Rev 19:12)
and cannot be lost (Matt 10:42; Rom 4:4; 1 Peter 1:4)	relative (confession of sin, 1 John 1:9), and experiential righteousness (Titus 2:12; 1 Tim 6:11; 1 John 3:10)	imprisonment, suffering, tribulation, and testing up to and including death (Rev 2:10)	Paul expected to win this crown (1 Cor 9:27) and the crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:8)	being good examples, and making decisions according to God's will)	given as rewards by conquerors to their friends (Alexander the Great to Hephaestion, Leonnatus, Nearchus, Peucestas, and Ptolemy)
given by Jesus at the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10)	given by Jesus "on that day" — probably the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Tim 4:8)	given by Jesus, probably at the Judgment Seat of Christ	given by Jesus, probably at the Judgment Seat of Christ	given when Jesus appears, probably after the Rapture at the Judgment Seat of Christ	given by Jesus, probably at the Judgment Seat of Christ