



More Than Words

Sermon Series on 1 Thessalonians

September - November 2009

This Book Belongs to _____

“Crowning Achievements”

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20 • Matthew 6:19-21

Introduction

I’ve never had a crown. Never worn a crown. Actually, I’m not sure if I had one I’d wear it. Hats sound more comfortable to me. From history, though, I understand the importance of crowns. Victors were often given a crown to signify their achievement. They were considered a treasure for those who possessed them.



Crowns were one of those items kept for years and handed down through the generations. It must have really surprised the Jewish people when Jesus made this strange statement

about storing up “treasures in heaven” instead of amassing treasures here on earth. After all, owning possessions was one of the ways to show your spiritual worth to God – the more you had, the more He must love you.

We still struggle with this; still find ourselves investing large amounts of money, time and energy getting the “stuff” and not really knowing about the treasures in heaven. After all, what is a treasure in heaven and how on earth do you store it up? Biblically speaking, there’s only one thing you can take with you to heaven – people. The only treasure you can store up in heaven is a person. Paul referred to people as his crown. In a sense, their salvation was his crowning achievement.

Sermon Notes

The Word of God is actually the _____ of _____.

There is a “_____ & _____” relationship we have with the Word of God.

Persecution was reserved for the _____ – both _____ and _____. This is true today in America for both _____ & _____; _____ & _____.

We must recognize the _____ that exists in the world and remember that we aren’t allowed to put on the _____ armor of God.

Our legacy...our only possible crowning achievement is _____.

Your Own Thoughts

Small Talk

When you look over your life so far, what’s one of your “crowning achievements” that makes you a little proud? If you can’t think of any of your own, think about a family achievement or event of note that made you proud.

(Please avoid giving churchy answers).

Text Talk

1. Why was Paul so thankful for the Thessalonians? (vs. 13-16 contain three)

2. Paul credited who for preventing connection between his coworkers and the Thessalonians? How could this happen? (Be specific with your ideas).

3. Is Paul being anti-Semitic in this section of scripture? If you don't think so, why not? Defend your answer. (See vs. 14-16)

Life Talk

1. When you think about your life accomplishments, what kind of legacy do you hope to leave when you die? What do you want people to remember about you from your relationship with them?

2. What do you think will be your greatest accomplishment in life?

3. What do you consider to be your greatest failure so far?

4. Who (not what) is your joy, glory and crown? Who have you impacted towards faith that impresses you spiritually as they've grown and matured?

Beyond Talk

Write a note of thanks to someone who has encouraged you spiritually and has helped you to grow.

I wrote my note to _____

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