

# The Prize

Sunday Morning, August 31, 2014

## Thesis:

The Prize of being a "joint-heir" of Christ is gained by living a lifetime willing to suffer for Him.

## Introduction:

### Illustration - Cleaning Silver

#### (Proverbs 25:4)

Take away the dross from silver, and it will go to the silversmith for jewelry.

## I. Spiritual Dross Disqualifies Us for the Prize

### (I Corinthians 9: 24 – 27)

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

27 But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

## (II Corinthians 5: 10 – 11)

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

Reverent Fear of God

Clear Conscience Out of Love for God

## (I John 2:28)

And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Confident at His Appearing

Do not be disqualified, but run the race to obtain the prize!

## II. Spiritual Endurance Wins the Prize!

### (II Timothy 2: 10 – 13)

10 Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

11 This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him.

12 If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

## (Matthew 10:22)

And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.



### (Hebrews 12: 1 – 3)

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

### (James 1:12)

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Approved, Passed Genuine Test

God is faithful, giving eternal life to those who believe in Him and to those enduring (i.e., persevering) to the end of the race will reign with Him!

### III. The Prize is Being "Joint-Heirs with Christ!" (Romans 8: 12 – 17)

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Being an "heir" is unconditional.

Being a "joint-heir" is conditional and upon perseverance.

### Conclusion:

The Prize of Being a "Joint-Heir" of Christ is gained by Living a Lifetime Willing to Suffer for Him.