

The Crowns in Corinthians – 4 “The Crown Way”  
Pastor O’Dorisio – September 3, 2025  
Bible Text: [1 Corinthians 4:14-17](#) ...

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Thanking the Lord gathering us to study the crowns in Corinthians, isn’t that a marvelous thing. And thanking God how when He brings these precious truths to us that we know, and yet the depth, and the length, and the breadth, and the height of His love, it’s just endless. And the exceeding riches of His grace and His kindness that is coming, praise be to God what we’re going to step into. But tonight, as we to go into the fourth chapter; it’s the crown way. The crown way, and we’ll begin reading in verse fourteen of First Corinthians Chapter Four. Paul says I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. That’ll kind of startle you, wake you up. That’s quite a greeting there, I write not be things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I have written them to warn you. 01:14

For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus, I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. How many ways and times does the Lord bring those words through the Apostle Paul; follow me as I follow Christ? Take heed to my words. What’s been given to me will judge the secrets and hearts of men. You would think that if you didn’t know the word of God, this guy’s an evil maniac. He’s pointing to himself, and as we know the Apostle Paul is not pointing to himself at all. This is the biggest praise and glory to the grace of God because he understands the great mercy, and the great grace that gives anyone of us the ear and the heart to hear this message of all grace. And the thankfulness in my heart to have someone that is sincere to trust God to that amount to truly say be followers of me? He wasn’t going out there to point to himself; that wasn’t something he wanted at all. That road to Damascus moment, he just wanted to be face to face in glory, but God. 03:06

And the ministering and what the Lord gave him, and to have this confidence in the grace of God to be that bold to truly say be followers of me. I love you; this has been given to me, this understanding, this knowledge, the mystery of Christ in the church; God has made me that chosen vessel and to Him for you. Praise the Lord, it’s really touched me to think about the sincerity of us in the truth to understand what God has given us. And the thankfulness that we have, and for us not to be ashamed of the gospel of Christ’s saints. And to understand truly who, and what’s in the value you are to Him. As Paul said, not to me only, but unto all them also, and here we are, the all them also that loves His appearing. We don’t have the title of the apostle, we don’t have the title of well, that’s Paul, but as Paul said so sweetly, and we read through that; you know Apollos and I we’re just ministers, understand who we are, but I’ll tell you one thing, we are the recipients of such mercy and grace, it’s treasure saints. 04:44

So, he says wherefore I beseech you, I plead with you; this is the warning, be followers of me. You're going to have thousands of instructors, but you're not going to have many fathers in Christ. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. Think of later on in the word of God where it says mark them as examples that have followed me; mark them. Thanks be to God what we've got to mark in this place, amen. And be thankful, boast in the Lord, it's okay, you're not boasting in somebody's preaching, or somebody else's this, I'm boasting in the faithfulness of God. I know what we have by the grace of God; I'm thankful for what we have. Brother Hill would say many times my boast is in the Lord, hallelujah. So, for this cause about being a follower of me, for this cause look at this. I send unto you Timotheus. I didn't have to come, because it's the message. It didn't have to be Paul; I'm sending this young one a lot of people probably don't want to receive because he's a young one. And you're human and I'm human, and you know how we work. We size him up with what we see. What's that package look like, huh? It'd better be is the truth in love gospel; is that the sounding of that. Not the sound, but the sounding of the vessel. 06:33

So, he says, for this cause, I have sent unto you Timotheus who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ as I teach everywhere in every church. Praise the Lord. And once again the boldness of the Lord I'm sending into you because He'll bring you into remembrance of my ways. Paul's gospel is vital. If you want the crown way, it's essential; there isn't any other way. There isn't any other preaching, it has to be this. And isn't it interesting in that it's very clear, isn't it? There's nothing to say, well, it could say this, it could say that, it doesn't, it says this. This is what it says, and think of all the Christianity in this world, does it really preach this, does it go after this, does it love this, does it want this? And the answer is no because it's organization, it's thought. It's man's ways, it's all of these different ingredients that will completely depart you from this gospel, and that's all the enemy wants to do. 07:53

It's like a little leaven, a little wrestling, you'll be unstable in every bit of your way with the truth, and it will happen. And it happens very subtly, but it happens very fast. But we're going to focus first a little bit on verse fifteen tonight because it's very telling. These saints as it says were begotten of Paul through the gospel. It wasn't Paul, it was still the gospel; it's always the gospel. But here we have the Apostle Paul, and he loves him, and he warns him it's His children in the faith, and to think of this, they have the Apostle Paul as their minister. He was the one that really brought them into the truth and he's warning them and why is he warning them? Because he knows what will go on, and probably what's already going on. They're already turning to different ministers, they're already starting to give their ear over to these things, and I think isn't it interesting? They got the Apostle Paul as their minister, and they're going ahead and listening to other things and it's not just because it's Paul, but it's because of the message in Paul. 0902

And all I could think of when I read that I said man's never changed. And truly what it is. it's either the message or it's not; it's either the message or it's not. And the Lord will

continue to cut, and to cut, and to cut, and to cut because He's going to reveal the heart; that's what, His word does that, that's all it can do. It'll reveal it, and especially Paul's gospel will, won't it because it judges the secrets of men; think of that. His gospel judges the secrets of the hearts of men; it really does. And it can be hard to see, and I mean hard meaning hurtful. But, let me tell you something, God's after that sincerity and He will have it. 09:58

Now, there's a thousand instructors. That means schoolmasters, so they can tell it to you in a sense because they have it to teach it that way in Christ. But not many fathers, and I want you to think about that even as parents and stuff, and I'm thankful for teachers; don't get me wrong. But they'll even tell you that the kids that will always do the best, got the furthest is because their parents are not just involved but because their parent teach them. They're their best teacher. I was thankful even when I had different projects in homework. There was my mom that helped me. There was my dad that took time that didn't just say I'm relying on the school to teach you, I will teach you, and that was many years ago. That wasn't when people were worried about what they were teaching, he just wanted me to know what they were teaching me. The English, the math, those types of things. That's the difference between a teacher, and a father. The father has a heart for that child. I said it earlier, you want to grow up fully, you want to grow up properly. You want to grow up in the crown way, you need a father in Christ. You need to heed as Brother Paul said to my gospel, my ways, my ways of love and prayer, my ways of joy as a readied wife. 11:29

See, the most influential factor of a child, and get this; the most influential factor of a child's education in the natural is health, their financial future, mental state; do they have a dad? That's the number one determiner for those things; they understand that connection. Well, we need a father in the faith, and in the teachings of the word of His grace if there's ever going to be build a masterpiece in our life, and that's the truth. And we read about this fellow not too long ago, but remember Epaphras, and what a father in the faith praise God as Paul complemented him, He said he wasn't just a man that preached to you, and preached Paul's gospel, but he was a man that prayed for you. How many fathers do we have in here. huh? You pray for your kids? Do you pray for your kids? Man, we pray for our kids, don't we Joe, don't we Hagen, don't we Scott? All around, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom it hits home. 12:52

Of these, this love, and even a love beyond, and the fathers of faith; Brother McLamb, Brother Dean Jones, Brother Bobby Steiger then we can go on to the sisters too. You know how graced we are? You know, I can look around here tonight and I can esteem you the same way honey, and why is this? Because it's the love of the message of Paul's gospel. It just comes with it. You pray for one another; you want each other to receive the crown of glory. I've seen you many times, and I mean that in Spirit receiving your crown; sweetest moment of my life that will never end, and you have it right now, He's just going to put it on your head. Is that real to you? I think it is. 14:28

But see, I thank God for that. I thank God it is our teachers, our elders, our ministers and even more. Always thank the Lord, don't ever take this place for granite. We have fathers of the faith in here. And now you see that's why he says, and Paul says this, I have begotten you through the gospel, and he says, so be ye followers of me as a father. Look at how I follow Christ. Observe this pattern; don't veer from it. It is a mark for a prize isn't it? And it's the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. It got me to thinking of my dad, and I have siblings here tonight and they will tell you Dad raised us a certain way. And he did and there were very clear, they were very clear the path, and it was very clear not to veer from it. And it was very clear if you go this way you're going to reap, you're going to have gain. And I can speak, and I thank the lord for my life, and my brothers and sisters we did, and I thank God I did. And I thank God I did that same with my sons. And thanks be to God that's the path, and you don't veer from that. 16:08

And there was my dad, where did he to get that? He got that from his mother, and she set that tone, and she set that way, and you don't veer from it, you plan it, and this is what you'll reap. And I thank God; under the hand of God would I reap by being an honorable son to my Father. An honorable son that by the grace of God you'll listen. You respect; you treasure it. I'm not saying that we don't all grow up unruly. But by the grace of God to hopefully mature quickly, and understand, well that's the person that loves me the most. And here you read the letters of Paul. You doubt that the Apostle loved them or loved you? It's all he spoke about. He talked about the joy that would be beyond hearing of their faith, the joy that flooded his heart knowing how they loved one another. And all they would do is just say keep increasing; just keep going after it; be spiritual, restore, encourage. Think of his life so much like the Lord and as Jesus. You know, the pharisees were always trying to distract Him, and He delt with that for a minute, and then He got right back to what He wanted to get to. 17:41

And there was Paul, and you know the distractions of Christianity, and some of the questions that come out, but then He'd address that and get back into what He wanted to. This is the important thing. I know you need an answer for that; here it is, but let's get and be about the crown. I'll address these things but don't get lost in them, this is what we're here for. That's what a dad does. A dad hones his kids in, and dad prays for them. That's what a father does, and this is what's so beautiful about this that I hope we see. As it said earlier you can get a lot of people to preach at you, but very few people will truly pray for you and love you in that truth. Be thankful for it and take of it, learn of it, grow into it and be one of these that are these fathers of faith. 18:48

And I thank God, following Paul as he followed Christ is everything. It is everything isn't it? And it's essential about the mark for the prize. It's essential praise God if we are to rule and reign jointly together with Jesus Christ. It's essential if we're going to be glorified together with Him. To have the crown, it must be the crown way. I think we go back to get corn; you got to find corn. To get beans you have to plant beans. Well, to have the crown it must be the crown way, and I thank God that we know that chosen vessel unto the Lord that was given them, that that was the one, and you thank the Lord for it.

And the grace of God that was with Him that gave Him that thankfulness to God to trust God. And brothers and sisters we need that. And you need to pray for those that are teaching. Pray for pastors, pray for this pastor; God continue to give me the boldness to preach this, and not to doubt you, and my calling, and what You've chosen for me for His people. 19:57

The attack that's coming, I'm not trying to get you to feel sorry. We understand it; it's our life. And then you continue to preach these things, and you think Lord, is that my foot on the gas? I don't want to push too hard. And then He starts taking me through the Grace and Glory, and then He starts showing me these things and I think my goodness, I got to speed up my running. The sufficient witness that He gives, the glory, you don't have to look for it, it hits you in the face. But we do search those things, don't we? But it's the Holy Ghost that points the King to what matters. Always remember that. But we thank God for this. Paul said be partakers of my grace. Wow, WOW; do you own grace like that? It wasn't for him only, or to him only. Partakers of my grace. See, a true father, and he even talks about this the Psalm. 21:20

A true father is a teacher that wants his students to excel him; that's a true teacher. That's a heart, not to get and put people under them, and to bash them; that's Nicolaitan doctrine, power over the people, that's what this is not about. This is a message by the grace of God that builds people up to a masterpiece. If they understand who they are in Christ that you're so thankful there is but one mediator for you; one, and that's your Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and you go boldly to that throne of grace. And you by the grace of God continue to put a lot on Him to say Lord, He that wills to know will know of this truth and we thank God for it. As Paul said, consider what I say. And Brother Paul said preach no other gospel; that's the crown way, and it's not a popular way, is it? I mean, here's the one that says be followers of me as I am of Christ, be followers of me. What he gave to me, the mystery of Christ in the church in this great gospel that I was given I didn't wind up with up with a mega church and twenty thousand members, I wound up in a prison, asking for a coat and a few of my like brethren, and definitely bring me the parchments. I got to read the word. Is that how we love the truth? 23:20

Is that how we love the gospel by the grace of God? And it's not an effort thing, is it? You know what it is? I just have to say well, it must be, I'm here. We're here, this is what we hear, this is what we want to hear; this is the only thing to hear, and I don't want to hear anything else. I want that sincerity, I want that truth in love gospel. So, we thank the Lord this is the crown way, and here is Timothy, the beloved son to Paul in the faith, and he is responsible, and he is an honoring son because he follows the pattern that was set forth by his dad. Praise the Lord, honoring our parents as unto the Lord. And even more so. I praise God as I said here, we are children in a sense of Paul in the faith. The word is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and it's not again to honor a man. I thank the Lord it's truly, it's the truth in love, it's that faith in love, it's praise God the Spirit in truth that's in that vessel, hallelujah in that wonderful word of His grace that touches us and takes us along. 24:50

But by the grace of God we are honorable to our dad, and I thank God that we rejoice in this heart of a father as we run. Don't we rejoice for one another? Aren't we thankful? I praise God, and I do. I don't believe I'm amongst jealousy in here. I don't think our ministers are at all are jealous of one another. I don't think we have any in here now that believe that a Friday might not be enough for them, or a Wednesday, but I can only speak on Sundays; I'll speak on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday; it doesn't matter. And I our other ministers here have that same heart by the grace of God. Is one enough? Two? I love being with you all, and I'm so thankful to God that the Lord showed me during covid coming in here and having somebody turn the sound on, and my wife sitting over here sounded like the most glorious message that ever came forth and joy and thanksgiving to God because it's about the message; it's about the message. 26:34

And I thank the Lord for that, and that's the desire that the fathers in the faith have. The fathers in the faith just want to be with their children. Sure, you want to be with all of them, but even if it's just one and it didn't matter. Giving an example today, I thank God from my daughter-in-law, dad, you haven't seen Frank for a little bit, we're driving by, would you get him over here. But I called her first, I need to see him because I've been gone for a day and I said you don't even have to take him out of the car, all I want to do is just see him. I want to touch him. I love you. I love you and I can't describe it. But it happened, and it came twenty years ago and, in a way, I can't ever tell you. 27:34

Now, I pray we really see the depth of this. Paul's saying here there's a thousand instructors, and notice this, it's ten thousand instructors in Christ; in Christ, alright? That's a good thing, in Christ is a wonderful thing, and Paul's not belittling that isn't a good thing. Paul's the one said that however Christ is preached is a good thing. He rejoiced, he was thankful for it, amen? But brothers and sisters there's a more perfect way. Apollos understood that didn't he? And by the grace of God that grace met Apollos, transformed him, and called him, and chose him for Paul's gospel for that more perfect way. So in Christ is everything, but as the Lord had me to meditate on this, in Christ is everything, but where in Christ are you? Where in Christ am I? Am I in Christ in the body, or am I in Christ in the body within the body, huh? See, that's the difference of a father as the Apostle Paul because he says I preach the same message to everyone everywhere. It didn't matter; I'm not going to size them up. I'm not a minister by the grace of God if the Lord took me somewhere else, and I mean this by the grace of God. 29:41

Well it says these people aren't going to receive Paul's gospel, so I'll just continue to feed them milk. Even when those ones with the Apostle Paul decided to leave the meat and go back to milk, he said yeah, I'll start you with milk, but we're going right back to meat. Huh? Brothers and sisters this is an intense gospel; it just is, and by the grace of God it must be our passion, and a passion by the grace of God that cannot be quenched that it just flows and it's a geyser, and you're thankful for the word of God that the lights go on in here, we know it's going to be Paul's gospel, it's going to be the fulness of His Grace. This isn't going to be a how to, this is going to be what you have. And growing into the knowledge of the birthright, and we can't waste any time; we must redeem the

time. We're not getting started in the race, we're in it And by the grace of God we're about ready to finish. So, are we in the body, or are we in Christ in the body within the body? Do we know that we're in Christ by the grace of God in the rib portion in the body?

31:20

Do we know that by the grace of God we're the glory in the church? I really encourage you, if you didn't listen to Sunday's message, you should listen to it, There's a brother who wrote a lot of songs; he knew where he was in the body of Christ, oh yes, he did. When you can sing a song, I'll be there, I want to explain that to you. When you can write a song, the glory crown I shall wear, you're calling those things that be not as though they were. You're living the life of a readied wife right now. That's not just connecting the dot, it is the dot. I don't have to stretch to figure that out, it's just what it is, that what's being said. And I thank God for that because that's the confidence in the grace of God, that's the boldness of a father, a father in the faith. Praise the Lord and it is glorious, and we have that encouragement, and think of that encouragement that we receive from a Brother Copley, from a Brother Hill. Because they were faithful sons following Paul as he followed Christ. That's what you get.

32:52

And without that it might be parts and pieces, but it'll never have a consistency; it won't finish with a full joy. It will have fear, which always comes from leaven, it will have doubt which always comes from work. It will have strife because they never really received the rest of God. I'm here by the grace of God just to tell you what you have. And I thank God, now I go back to my natural father with all of us. You'd have it all, and what he was speaking of truly, naturally speaking no one has any more upon you that anybody else, and it wasn't that you, and I appreciated that his own words even in the natural, don't compare yourself with anybody else. You just go, and you can do and be whatever you want to be. Well, the Lord tells us this, and it's much, much grander way; you've been born Lord of all. That's who you are. Well, I'll just jump ahead a little bit. Lord of all means owner and ruler of all by the way; owner and ruler of all. Bing, Bing, Bing, Bing; it's just who you are.

34:23

So. what can you be? Huh, I guess I can be owner and ruler of all. You see what the new birth did? What you have blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavens in Christ. With Him also freely give you all things. Why do we want to wrestle with that? That's why I'm thankful for fathers in the faith that tell me who I am in Christ. I'm not a dad that's going to sow doubt in your head; play with your mind, manipulate you; this is who you are. This is our family. This is our heritage; isn't it awesome? Even if you didn't have this naturally in a family, you've got it, you've got the one that counts forever. You got the Spiritual Dad, and I'm talking about our Father God, but I'll tell you what, we have nothing to be but secure, confident, bold, and Lord, as David said, enlarge my steps; that's what grace does. It makes you thankful for your birthright, thankful for your Father. And so, brothers and sisters, I do, I'm so grateful to God that its glory for us, and we see by grace into the depths of the rib portion of Jesus Christ. We have as the word of God tells us enlightened eyes of understanding that see yea unto the deep things of God.

36:22

We rejoice that we are the part of the body in Christ that are the kings. It was meant for all of them, but aren't you thankful grace touched you to be a full of faith son, a beloved son, a full grown **uihos** glorious son to know our birthright, to know this Lord of all, to know owner and ruler of all what grace has enjoined us to, to be joint heirs together with Jesus Christ. If you have a minister that sows doubt of that in your life, that's not a father; that's not a father. That father will sow one thing, the absolute assurance of the power of the grace of God. The absolute assurance of the word of His grace that's able to build you up, and give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctified. A father that says He will perform the good work which He's begun in you. A father that says yes, all things work together for good to them that love God. And we can go on, and on, and on with all of the assurances, the promises of God, hallelujah. 38:08

The backing of all the grace that gave us the faith to believe in that. And I pray by the grace of God that we all enjoin into that heart of truly a father of faith that we would encourage one another as cherubim brethren, the same assurance not sowing doubt, but confidence in the grace of God that is with us. And it's all because the grace of God that caused us to yield under Paul's gospel. You just somehow, that mercy hits you. And isn't it interesting because it's what the bible says? But you can't just read it in a brain and get it. It has to be by His Spirit. Or it's something that's just wrote that you could recite that you maybe could do this. And man would miss his love; it hits home, don't it? And you do, and you groan, and yet we have this thing called life that this supersedes everything. 39:32

Everything, and I'm so thankful it does because it almost feels like this life's pulling at us and getting us to sink in God so sweetly. Here comes that mighty Spirit wind, whoosh; fully grown sons, I'm looking at them. "Uihos", the mature sons of glory, and that's what true fathers teach, that's what true fathers pray for, for their children. We've had the Copley's, and the Hills, by the grace of God I can tell you something. You've got a minister, there's only one thing in my heart: one thing, and by the grace of God by the anointing of the Holy Ghost it's going to come forth every single time. I love Him, and I love you, and I'm thankful we love Him together praise God. Let's stand and be dismissed. 40:49