

Coronation Way
James 1:12

November 4, 2012

A. Introduction

1. Text: 'Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.'
2. A Royal Coronation
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B. The Preparation

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 - a. dokimazo
 - b. peirazo^B
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 - a.
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 - d.

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^A John 14:2-3, Mark 13:32

^B John 6:5-6

^C Romans 5:4, Job 23:10

^D Psalm 1

^E 2 Timothy 4:7-8, Philippians 4:1, 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 1 Peter 5:4

^F Romans 8:28

^G 2 Corinthians 4:8-10

A. Introduction—{2}.

1. Text: 'Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.' (James 1:12)

2. A Royal Coronation
 - a. when King George VI died in the night of February 15th, 1952
 - b. as had been the tradition for many centuries
 - c. not only in Britain, but in many European nations
 - d. the event was announced with these words
 - e. "The king is dead; long live the queen."
 - f. with those words, the new queen, Elizabeth II, began to travel a path to her coronation, a "Coronation Way" that would lead to the Coronation Day of June 2nd, 1953, 16 months later
 - g. these were not days of waiting around, but of preparation by the new queen and her staff for the event, as well as of preparation of the young queen herself in all the pomp and protocol involved
 - h. part of that preparation was the choice of the day itself; sufficiently in the future, that all the details could be planned; at a date when the British weather would be most likely to co-operate
 - i. then the actual route to be taken by the procession from Buckingham Palace, the Queen's residence, to Westminster Abbey was to be laid out – not the most direct route but one which would permit many to line the streets to catch a glimpse of the event, and for this tickets were printed and sold to allow and to assign people to places along the route, along with instructions « – Show map and ticket; 10 shillings »
 - j. the decision was made that television cameras would be permitted in the Abbey so that millions could see the actual ceremony
 - k. the day arrived – it was raining! « – show picture of procession going through Piccadilly Circus – » yet people stood in the rain; some first to see the procession going to the Abbey, then with others awaiting its return from the Abbey – lights were turned on in the carriage so the Queen could be seen
 - l. the climactic moment of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth came with the crown marking her rule being

placed on her head « – show picture »

3. Your Coronation Way

- a. it you are a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ, then you, too, have begun to travel along the path, the “Coronation Way,” to your own coronation
- b. James says that even now you are being prepared for the coronation, just as was Elizabeth was being prepared during those 16 months
- c. events are being prepared on your behalf
 - (A) Jesus said, ‘... I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.’ (John 14:2-3)
 - (B) the day has been set – it will be when Jesus returns
 - (C) ‘But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.’ (Mark 13:32)
 - (D) but it is none the less certain for all that
- d. and like that processional route that Elizabeth II followed, the path that God lays before each of us is not the most direct – in particular, we find that it is lined with trials and overshadowed by heavy weather

4. Our Text Again: ‘Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.’ (James 1:12) – let us consider this verse under this outline

- a. The Preparation
- b. The Blessing
- c. The Recipients

B. The Preparation

1. In Trials and Temptations

- a. in Greek there are two words meaning ‘to test, to try’
- b. the first is dokima/zw (dokima’zoh) (as in ‘try out my new Lamborghini’)
 - (A) it can be translated by ‘test, try, examine, prove, or scrutinise’

- (B) its purpose is to get assurance that a person or thing is genuine
 - (C) As the Union Pacific Railroad was being constructed, an elaborate trestle bridge was built across a large canyon in the West. Wanting to test the bridge, the builder loaded a train with enough extra cars and equipment to double its normal payload. The train was then driven to the middle of the bridge, where it stayed an entire day. One worker asked, "Are you trying to break this bridge?" "No," the builder replied, "I'm trying to prove that the bridge won't break." —^{3}.
 - (D) that is dokima/zw: it, and its family of words, all convey the idea of testing in order to approve; we shall return to it
- c. the second is peira/zw (peyra'zoh) (try out prospects for a team)
- (A) it can be translated by 'test, try, attempt, inflict evil, entice'
 - (B) its purpose can be either positive or negative, good or bad
 - (C) in John 6:5-6, it is used in this positive sense when Jesus, in order to prove or test Philip, asked him, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?"
 - (D) but this is the word that is always used for 'to tempt to sin'
 - (E) in this first chapter, James has been using – with a few exceptions – this word and its family of words – to describe the trials that were coming upon his readers
 - (F) 'blessed is the man persevering under peirasmo/v.' (peyrasmos')
- d. so the authors of various books about this chapter in James argue back and forth as to which meaning is intended
- (A) does it mean trials, those difficulties that need to be overcome?
 - (B) does it mean temptation, the drawing a person into sin?
- e. in a way that is rather a naïve because it is when hardships come – that is the trials of life – that temptation accompanies them
- (A) oh, not the temptation to overt sins such as murder
 - (B) but those subtler. but no less evil, sins such as doubting God's power and goodness, His loving care over us
 - (C) it is, therefore, both that need to be overcome ...

2. In Perseverance and Endurance

- a. it is hard to reflect the original Greek adequately into English
 - (A) James is not speaking about a passive, Stoical suffering of trials
 - (B) nor is he talking about somehow persevering in muddling through some difficulty until it goes away
 - (C) it is rather the active choice that when trouble comes – when the invading army enters not to flee away but – to remain and stand up underneath the difficulty in order to overcome it
- b. you can see then, I trust, how this applies
 - (A) whether we are speaking of hardship or temptation to sin
 - (B) in the word used in the letters to the seven churches of Asia in the book of Revelation, this is 'overcoming;' it is being victors over, and not victims of, temptations and trials
- c. it is this overcoming which results ...

3. In Approval

- a. I said we would return to that word dokima/zw and now we are there
- b. 'for once he has been approved' – do/kimov (do'kimos) – proven genuine
- c. Paul and James agree upon the effect of persevering and overcoming for Paul uses the same description in Romans 5:4 in talking about the results of suffering: 'and perseverance works proven character'
- d. that is why God permits trials and temptations to come into our lives – that in standing up against them we flex and build spiritual muscles
- e. so Job, at the very depth of his sufferings, in response to the hurtful words of his three 'friends', could say, 'But He knows the way I take; When He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold.' (Job 23:10)
- f. Job was walking on the Coronation Way and had no doubt of its end
- g. trials and temptations are God's approval system for His people that they be shown

C. The Blessing

1. The Blessed Man

- a. even in secular Greek this word (maka/riov, (Makar'ios) as in the archbishop of that name) goes beyond mere happiness to a spiritual level of 'life beyond care, labour and death'^{4}.
- b. but it is in the OT, where the phrase 'Blessed is the man ...' occurs a number of times, and is translated by this Greek word, that Biblical usage takes on the "distinctive religious joy" which is one of the

benefits of salvation¹⁻⁵.

- c. so Psalm 1: 1 has a special pertinence to this truth: 'How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!' – this describes the man who in practical terms has learned how to overcome temptation
- d. such a person, then, who stands approved is indeed blessed, and to them is given ...

2. The Crown

- a. the crown that the Lord will place upon his overcoming servants in that Coronation Day at the end of the Coronation Way, is described in its various aspects in Scripture: ... let me read some of them:
- b. 2 Timothy 4:7-8, 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.'
- c. Philippians 4:1, 'Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, ...'
- d. 1 Thessalonians 2:19, '... who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? ...'
- e. 1 Peter 5:4, to elder - shepherds, 'And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.'
- f. these are spiritual crowns, not the golden crowns of the 24 elders which were cast before the throne of the Eternal One
- g. these crowns are presented by the Lord on His return
- h. this crown has many aspects, so that as one turns it around to inspect it, different jewels blaze forth:
 - (A) crown of life
 - (B) crown of righteousness
 - (C) crown of exultation (that is, being joyful)
 - (D) crown of glory
- i. each jewel is mounted in the crown with the little word, 'of'
 - (A) 'of' can be used to denote possession: as 'the walls of the house'
 - (1) the crown that glory has in its possession
 - (2) the crown that joy has in its possession

- (3) the crown that righteousness has in its possession
- (4) the crown that life has in its possession
- (5) this award can be viewed as the crowning finish of the glory, joy, righteousness and life we have in Christ

(B) 'of' can be used as descriptive: as 'the ring of gold'

- (1) this is a glorious crown – adorning the wearer with glory
- (2) this is a joyous crown – bearing joy with it
- (3) this is a righteous crown – only accorded to the righteous
- (4) this is a living crown – recall Psalm 1:3, '[... his leaf also shall not wither ...](#)'

(C) and finally, 'of' can be explanatory: 'road of hardship'

- (1) the crown that is glory
- (2) the crown that is joy
- (3) the crown that is righteousness
- (4) the crown that is life; real life; spiritual life; fulfilled life.

D. The Recipients

1. I shall not dwell on this, but it has been repeated more than once
 - a. this is for '[those who love Him](#)', for '[those who love His appearing](#)'
 - b. those are really one and the same – for those who do not love Jesus, His coming again will not be a lovely thing, but judgement
 - c. faith in Christ is the seed that starts the growth of that love, and when Christ returns, and faith is made sight, then only love will remain

E. Conclusion

1. this is not an easy world in which to live
 - a. even for Christians; Paul an obedient servant of Christ did not find it easy: '[we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.](#)' (2 Corinthians 4:8-10)

- b. yet, like Jesus Christ, who is our fore-runner, the One going ahead of us into heaven to prepare a place for us, we are not only told that we can expect the cross, but also that we can look forward to a crown
 - c. this is the incentive for us to face and to overcome the trials and the temptations that most certainly will attack us
2. if you have never made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ
- a. I invite you to step out and begin a journey on this Coronation Way
 - b. it is not an easy way: it is beset by trials and temptations
 - c. it means entering a battle –
 - d. at the end of this way lies a coronation: its end is glorious, and joyous, and righteous – the end of this way is life, abundant life, eternal life
3. may every one here this morning see that the prize is worth the price

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Except as noted otherwise, quotations are from the New American Standard version, used by permission. Various other English versions of the Holy Bible may be used in this sermon. Explanatory additions to the Bible text are shown in *(braces)*. Version identifiers are:

ASV	American Standard Version of 1901
AV	Authorized (King James) Version of 1769
NAS	New American Standard version © 1960, 1995 The Lockman Foundation (usually the 1995 edition)
NIV	New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NKJV	New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers
WEY	The New Testament in Modern Speech © 1902, 1912 R. F. Weymouth

Some of my commentaries and resources used in the preparation of this message are identified as follow:

- BM - Biblical Museum, Editor James Comper Gray, ca 1870
- EBC - The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, © 1986 Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 49530, Michigan - Volume 12, James, by Donald W. Burdick, Professor of New Testament, Denver Seminary, ISBN 0-310-36540-6
- EGT - The Expositor’s Greek Testament, *James*, by W. E. Oesterley, Hodder & Stoughton, 1910 (Liberal, but generally helpful on Greek idiom.)
- Lange - Commentary on the Holy Scriptures by John Peter Lange, translated by Philip Schaff, Volume 9 of the New Testament; Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1915 (His interpretations sometimes take strange twists.)
- NICNT - The New International Commentary on the New Testament, *Commentary on the Epistles of James and John* by Alexander Ross, Wm B Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1954 - ISBN 0-8028-2192-8
- TYN - Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, *The General Epistle of James*, by Professor R. V. G. Tasker, The Tyndale Press, 1956
- Kerux - The sermon & illustration data base compiled by Rev. David Holwick at the web-site, www.holwick.com.

2. Map, pictures, etc., were used in the message from the web site: <http://www.arborfield-september49ers.co.uk/coronation1953.htm>
3. Rev. Brett Blair’s illustrations by Email - Kerux illustrations #5379
4. EBC, quoting Kittel’s ‘Theological Dictionary of the New Testament’, *in loc*
5. EBC, quoting *ibid*, p 367