

**Let Us Fight the Good Fight and Seek the Crown of
Righteousness, May 3, 2022 Class**



2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; **8** Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

The Fight/War Started in Heaven

Genesis 3:4 Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him; and also that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten I caused that he should be cast down; and he became Satan.

Isaiah 14:12-16

12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north;

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.

15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and shall consider thee, and shall say, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms?

Revelation 12:6 And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought against Michael.

Revelation 12:4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman which was delivered, ready to devour her child after it was born.



Revelation 12:8 Neither was there place found in heaven for the great dragon, who was cast out; that old serpent called the devil, and also called Satan, which deceiveth the whole world; he was cast out into the earth; and his angels were cast out with him.

Genesis 3:1-5 1 And I, the Lord God, spake unto Moses, saying, That Satan whom thou hast commanded in the name of mine Only Begotten, is the same which was from the beginning;
2 And he came before me, saying, Behold I, send me, I will be thy Son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore, give me thine honor.
3 But behold, my beloved Son, which was my beloved and chosen from the beginning, said unto me: Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever.
4 Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him; and also that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten I caused that he should be cast down; and he became Satan.
5 Yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive, and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice.

We Were There at the Foundation of the World

Alma 9:65-68 65 And this is the manner after which they were ordained: **being called and prepared from the foundation of the world, according to the foreknowledge of God,** on account of their exceeding faith and good works; in the first place being left to choose good or evil;
66 Therefore they having chosen good, and exercising exceeding great faith, are called with a holy calling, yea, with that holy calling which was prepared with, and according to, a preparatory redemption for such;
67 And thus they have been called to this holy calling on account of their faith, while others would reject the Spirit of God on account of the hardness of their hearts and blindness of their minds, while, if it had not been for this, they might have had as great privilege as their brethren.
68 Or in fine: in the first place they were on the same standing with their brethren; thus this holy calling being prepared from the foundation of the world for such as would not harden their hearts, being in and through the atonement of the only begotten Son, who was prepared.

We Need Not Fear Satan Because Jesus Has All Power

Mosiah 1:102 And he shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of heaven and earth, the Creator of all things, from the beginning.

Matthew 28:17 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Satan is Busy and Active = The Battle, The Fight is On Going = A Daily Battle

- **Luke 22:31** And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, **behold Satan hath desired you, that he may sift the children of the kingdom as wheat.**
- **32** But I have prayed for you, that your faith fail not; and when you are converted strengthen your brethren.
- **Sec. 52:3d** And let my servant Lyman Wight **beware, for Satan desireth to sift him as chaff.**



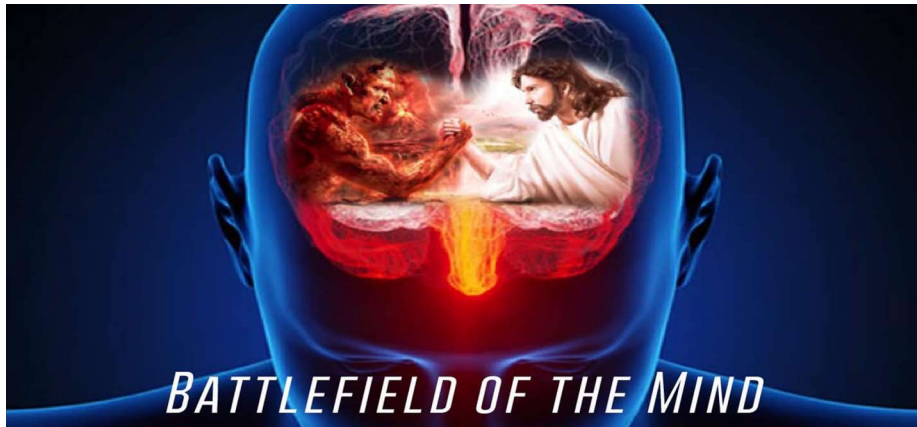
1 Nephi 4:52 For the day should come that they must be judged of their works, yea, even the works which were done by the temporal body in their days of probation.

Alma 9:41 Therefore this life became a probationary state; a time to prepare to meet God; a time to prepare for that endless state, which has been spoken of by us, which is after the resurrection of the dead.

Alma 19:84 And thus we see, that there was a time granted unto man, to repent, yea, a probationary time, a time to repent and serve God.

2 Nephi 6:56 But wo unto him that has the law given; yea, that has all the commandments of God, like unto us, and that transgresseth them, and that wasteth the days of his probation; for awful is his state!

Our Minds Are the Battle Field



Ask the Holy Spirit to Attend & Renew Your Thoughts

- **2 Corinthians 10:3**
- For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh;
- **4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;**
- **Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ**



Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just; whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Mosiah 2:49 But this much I can tell you, that if ye do not watch yourselves, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds, and observe to keep the commandments of God, and continue in the faith of what ye have heard concerning the coming of our Lord, even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish.

Alma 9:23-24 23 For our words will condemn us, yea, all our works will condemn us; we shall not be found spotless: 24 And our thoughts will also condemn us; and in this awful state, we shall not dare look up to our God.



To reach the celestial level we have to become new creatures in Christ. The caterpillar cannot fly as a caterpillar. Change is necessary.

We must be transformed into the likeness of Christ to fulfill our calling. Just as a butterfly cannot remain a caterpillar, and fly, we can not remain as the natural man and fulfill our destiny.

You Have to Want to Fly
So Much
You Will Change
Whatever it is that
Keeps You From Flying
Are You Ready to Fly?



Our Minds Can & Must Be Renewed



It's Time

- **Joel 2:13** And rend your heart, and not your garments, and repent, and turn unto the Lord your God; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and he will turn away the evil from you.

- **Return to Jesus = Get Back to Basics**
By = Morning Prayer Time, Fasting, Study of the Scriptures, Taking the Holy Spirit as Your Guide, Love God 1st and Love Each Other, Be Kind, Tender Hearted, Be Humble, Serve With Joy, Obey the Commandments, Repent Often, Follow Jesus



Great Shall Be The Reward to the Faithful

D&C 76:1c-2b 1c his purposes fail not, neither are there any who can stay his hand; from eternity to eternity he is the same, and his years never fail.

2a For thus saith the Lord, I, the Lord, am merciful and gracious unto those who fear me, and delight to honor those who serve me in righteousness and in truth unto the end;

2b great shall be their reward, and eternal shall be their glory.

God Has Promised Us Wonderful Things if We But Follow Him



Crown of Righteousness

- 2 Timothy 4
 - 7 I have fought a good fight,
 - I have finished my course,
 - I have kept the faith
 - **8 Henceforth there is**
 - **laid up for me a**
 - **crown of righteousness,**
 - which the Lord,
 - the righteous judge,
 - shall give me at that day;
 - and not to me only,
 - but unto all them also
 - that love his appearing.



Crown of Glory

- 1 Peter 5:2 Feed (give food to teach)
- the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;
- 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.
- 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.



Run a Good Race , Fight a Good Fight and Get the Incorruptible Crown

- 1 Corinthians 9
24 Know ye not that they which run in a race all run, but only one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.
- 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate (to exercise self-control or restraint & be chaste) in all things.
- Now they do it to obtain a
- corruptible crown;
- but we an incorruptible.
- 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air;
- 27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection;



Crown of Rejoicing

- 1 Thessalonians 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?
- 20 For ye are our glory and joy.

This is often called the soul winner's crown, for those who win souls to Christ

Soul Winner's Crown



Crown of Life

- James 1:11 For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth; so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.
- 12 Blessed is the man that resisteth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer; behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days; **be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life.**



What Purpose These Crowns

Revelation 4:10-11 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sits on the throne, and worship him that liveth forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

The Four and Twenty Elders Cast Their Crowns Before God

- Hopefully we will have opportunity to do the same.
- Pastor Tim Burt: "What made these great men able to be used of God? It was their humble and hungry heart to know and serve God and His plan. Their love and hunger to know, love, and serve God gave them a spiritual perception and eyesight that the rest of the world does not have. It causes you to see God in the details of your life in a way that others can't."
- It causes your faith to become stronger than most because you constantly see God working in your life. And no matter what good comes to you, you know and acknowledge that it is from and because of Him. **People with this kind of heart and perception are daily casting their crown at His feet."**



Let's Prepare For Eternity

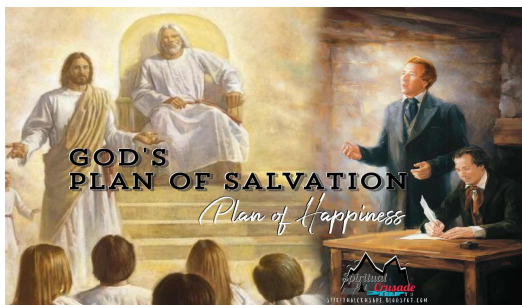
Colossians 3:20 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Matthew 6:19-21 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth...But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.

Write The Vision

We can never say we did not know these things = God has given us great revelations in our day concerning eternity



DC 76: 1c his purposes fail not, neither are there any who can stay his hand; from eternity to eternity he is the same, and his years never fail.....

- **2a** For thus saith the Lord, I, the Lord, am merciful and gracious unto those who fear me, and delight to honor those who serve me in righteousness and in truth unto the end;
- **2b** great shall be their reward, and eternal shall be their glory;

Celestial Glory

D&C 76:5a-5r

5a And again, we bear record for we saw and heard, and this is the testimony of the gospel of Christ, concerning them who come forth in the resurrection of the just:

5b They are they who received the testimony of Jesus, and believed on his name, and were baptized after the manner of his burial, being buried in the water in his name, and this according to the commandment which he has given, that by keeping the commandments, they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins,

5c and receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of the hands of him who is ordained and sealed unto this power;

5d and who overcome by faith, and are sealed by that Holy Spirit of promise, which the Father sheds forth upon all those who are just and true;

5e they are they who are the church of the Firstborn;

5f they are they into whose hands the Father has given all things:

5g they are they who are priests and kings, who have received of his fullness, and of his glory, and are priests of the Most High after the order of Melchisedec, which was after the order of Enoch, which was after the order of the only begotten Son:

5h wherefore, as it is written, they are gods, even the sons of God; wherefore all things are theirs, whether life or death, or things present, or things to come, all are theirs, and they are Christ's, and Christ is God's; and they shall overcome all things;

5i wherefore let no man glory in man, but rather let him glory in God, who shall subdue all enemies under his feet;

5j these shall dwell in the presence of God and his Christ for ever and ever:

5k these are they whom he shall bring with him, when he shall come in the clouds of heaven, to reign on the earth over his people;

5l these are they who shall have part in the first resurrection;

5m these are they who shall come forth in the resurrection of the just;

5n these are they who are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly place, the holiest of all;

5o these are they who have come to an innumerable company of angels; to the general assembly and church of Enoch, and of the Firstborn;

5p these are they whose names are written in heaven, where God and Christ are the judge of all;

5q these are they who are just men made perfect through Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, who wrought out this perfect atonement through the shedding of his own blood;

5r these are they whose bodies are celestial, whose glory is that of the sun, even the glory of God the highest of all; whose glory the sun of the firmament is written of as being typical.

Terrestrial Glory

D&C 76:6a-6h

6a And again, we saw the terrestrial world, and, behold, and lo;

6b these are they who are of the terrestrial, whose glory differs from that of the church of the Firstborn, who have received the fullness of the Father, even as that of the moon differs from the sun of the firmament.

6c Behold, these are they who died without law; and also they who are the spirits of men kept in prison, whom the Son visited, and preached the gospel unto them, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, who received not the testimony of Jesus in the flesh, but afterwards received it;

6d these are they who are honorable men of the earth, who were blinded by the craftiness of men:

6e these are they who receive of his glory, but not of his fullness;

6f these are they who receive of the presence of the Son, but not of the fullness of the Father; wherefore they are bodies terrestrial, and not bodies celestial, and differ in glory as the moon differs from the sun;

6g these are they who are not valiant in the testimony of Jesus; wherefore they obtained not the crown over the kingdom of our God.

6h And now this is the end of the vision which we saw of the terrestrial, that the Lord commanded us to write while we were yet in the Spirit.

Telestial Glory

D&C 76:7a-7f

7a And again, we saw the glory of the telestial, which glory is that of the lesser, even as the glory of the stars differs from that of the glory of the moon in the firmament;

7b these are they who received not the gospel of Christ, neither the testimony of Jesus;

7c these are they who deny not the Holy Spirit;

7d these are they who are thrust down to hell;

7e these are they who shall not be redeemed from the Devil, until the last resurrection, until the Lord, even Christ the Lamb, shall have finished his work;

7f these are they who receive not of his fullness in the eternal world, but of the Holy Spirit through the ministration of the terrestrial; and the terrestrial through the ministration of the celestial: and also the telestial receive it of the administering of angels, who are appointed to minister for them, or who are appointed to be ministering spirits for them, for they shall be heirs of salvation.

Continued Description of the Glories

D&C 76:7g-7m

7g And thus we saw in the heavenly vision, the glory of the telestial which surpasses all understanding; and no man knows it except him to whom God has revealed it.

7h And thus we saw the glory of the terrestrial, which excels in all things the glory of the telestial, even in glory, and in power, and in might, and in dominion.

7i And thus we saw the glory of the celestial, which excels in all things; where God, even the Father, reigns upon his throne for ever and ever, before whose throne all things bow in humble reverence and give him glory for ever and ever.

7j They who dwell in his presence are the church of the Firstborn; and they see as they are seen, and know as they are known, having received of his fullness and of his grace; and he makes them equal in power, and in might, and in dominion.

7k And the glory of the celestial is one, even as the glory of the sun is one. And the glory of the terrestrial is one, even as the glory of the moon is one.

7l And the glory of the telestial is one, even as the glory of the stars is one, for as one star differs from another star in glory, even so differs one from another in glory in the telestial world; for these are they who are of Paul, and of Apollos, and of Cephas;

7m these are they who say they are some of one and some of another, some of Christ, and some of John, and some of Moses, and some of Elias; and some of Esais, and some of Isaiah, and some of Enoch, but received not the gospel, neither the testimony of Jesus, neither the prophets; neither the everlasting covenant;

No Glory Level

D&C 76:7n-7s

7n Last of all, these all are they who will not be gathered with the saints, to be caught up unto the church of the Firstborn, and received into the cloud;

7o these are they who are liars, and sorcerers, and adulterers, and whoremongers, and whosoever loves and makes a lie;

7p these are they who suffer the wrath of God on the earth;

7q these are they who suffer the vengeance of eternal fire;

7r these are they who are cast down to hell and suffer the wrath of Almighty God until the fullness of times, when Christ shall have subdued all enemies under his feet, and shall have perfected his work, when he shall deliver up the kingdom and present it unto the Father spotless, saying:

7s I have overcome and have trodden the wine press alone, even the wine press of the fierceness of the wrath of Almighty God; then shall he be crowned with the crown of his glory, to sit on the throne of his power to reign for ever and ever.

Final Statement

D&C 76:7t-7w

7t But, behold, and lo, we saw the glory and the inhabitants of the telestial world, that they were as innumerable as the stars in the firmament of heaven, or as the sand upon the seashore, and heard the voice of the Lord saying:

7u These all shall bow the knee, and every tongue shall confess to him who sits upon the throne for ever and ever;

7v for they shall be judged according to their works; and every man shall receive according to his own works, and his own dominion, in the mansions which are prepared, and they shall be servants of the Most High, but where God and Christ dwell they cannot come, worlds without end.

7w This is the end of the vision which we saw, which we were commanded to write while we were yet in the Spirit.

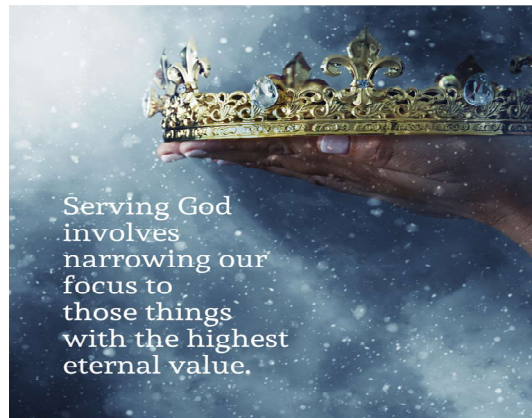
Where Do You Want to End Up

Set Your Goal, Keep Your Eyes on Eternal Life With Jesus, Narrow Your Focus = You Can't Serve God and Mammon

**Choose This Day Who You Will
Serve = May Require Change**

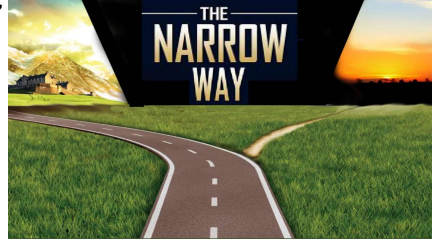


Love and Serve God First



Must Get In the Strait and Narrow Pathway

- **II Nephi 13:24** For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water: and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire, and by the Holy Ghost.
- **25** And then are ye in this strait and narrow path which leads to eternal life; yea, ye have entered in by the gate; ye have done according to the commandments of the Father and the Son;
- **26** And ye have received the Holy Ghost, which witnesses of the Father and the Son, unto the fulfilling of the promise which he hath made, that if ye enter in by the way, ye should receive.
- **27** And now, my beloved brethren, after ye have gotten into this strait and narrow path, I would ask, if all is done?



2 Nephi 13:27-31 27 And now, my beloved brethren, after ye have gotten into this strait and narrow path, I would ask, if all is done? 28 Behold, I say unto you, Nay; for ye have not come thus far, save it were by the word of Christ, with unshaken faith in him, relying wholly upon the merits of him who is mighty to save; 29 Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men. 30 Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life. 31 And now behold, my beloved brethren, this is the way; and there is none other way nor name given under heaven, whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God.

D&C 98:9b Therefore, I must gather together my people according to the parable of the wheat and the tares, that the wheat may be secured in the garners to possess eternal life, and be crowned with celestial glory when I shall come in the kingdom of my Father, to reward every man according as his work shall be.

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Revelation 21:1-4 1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 22:14-17 14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. 15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. 16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.