

Now, our God,  
we give you thanks,  
and praise your  
glorious name.  
1 Chronicles 29:13

# Wake Union Baptist Church

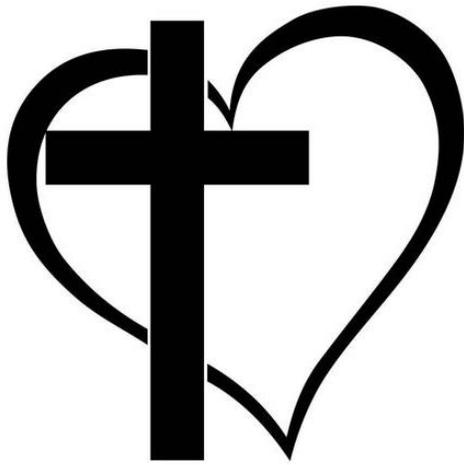
*"Where the good news of Jesus Christ  
is proclaimed in truth and love"*

THE LORD'S DAY

November 22, 2020

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Call to Worship	<i>To God Be The Glory</i>	4
Invocation		
<u>Welcome &amp; Announcements</u>		
Scripture Reading	<b>Philippians 4:6-9</b>	
Hymn	<i>Count Your Blessings</i>	644
Children's Bible Time March (ages 3-6)		
<u>Morning Prayer</u>		
Hymn	<i>No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus</i>	
<u>Offertory Prayer</u>		
Doxology	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	253
Hymn	<i>Great is Thy Faithfulness</i>	54
Sermon	<b>THREE THANKSGIVINGS James 1:12-18</b>	Pastor Joel
Invitation	<i>I Just Want To Thank You Lord</i>	
Benediction		



### Crown of Life! ... What is that?

In our passage today, James says that to the victor goes a crown of life. Folks may breeze right by that statement, and assume, "I suppose this is talking about my salvation and that if I endure temptation, then I'll be saved." But is that what the Bible teaches? Or does it say, whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved? Faith is a choice that calls upon the name of the Lord, and He saves us—completely, entirely, now and forever.

Rather than this being the "way" that we are saved (through our own endurance), this is more likely the promise of a special blessing from God for those who remain faithful through the hard times of life. Jesus refers to this routinely in His letters to His Churches in the early chapters of Revelation.

"Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10)

The kind of blessings of life that Jesus gives to us is not the kind of blessings that only last in and through this life. They are eternal rewards that we can receive in this life and stretch into eternity.

What's truly interesting if we study the passages related to the rewards, the crowns that God gives, there are a variety given for certain services done for God.

This is what Pastor Alexander MacLaren has to say about it: "Now the word which is employed in the passages to which we have referred is not that which usually denotes a kingly crown, but that which indicates the garland or wreath or chaplet of festivity and victory. A twist of myrtle or parsley or pine was twined round the brows of the athlete flushed with effort and victory. The laurel is the 'reward of mighty conquerors.' Roses, with violets or ivy, sat upon the brows of victors. And it is thoughts of these rather than of the kingly tiara which is in the mind of the New Testament writers."

In examining the passages of Scripture, this is what we find:

Believers' Crowns		
Title	Reason	Reference
An Imperishable Crown	For leading a disciplined life	<u>1 Cor. 9:25</u>
A Crown of Rejoicing	For evangelism and discipleship	<u>1 Thess. 2:19</u>
A Crown of Righteousness	For loving the Lord's appearing	<u>2 Tim. 4:8</u>
A Crown of Life	For enduring trials	<u>Jam. 1:12</u> ; <u>Rev. 2:10</u>
A Crown of Glory	For shepherding God's flock faithfully	<u>1 Pet. 5:4</u>

*Thomas Constable*

God has set up these things for us to do them (Eph. 2:10) and empowers us to accomplish them (Phil. 2:3). But we must be active in living them out to be that faithful servant who can hear the words, "Well done!" (Matthew 25:23) We can be thankful for each one of these things! God has blessed us all along the way, but Jesus also warns us:

"Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown." (Revelation 3:11)

Someone can't take your eternal life, but they can take your reward by tempting you to sin or to give up being faithful in all things. Jesus warns us, because He cares for and loves us!

Prayer Request Updates	
Our Nation – Protection, healing, and especially turning to the Lord Jesus.	Coronavirus victims and those grieving over the loss of loved ones.

# Gratitude

1. What difference does it make whether I thank God for things?
2. What should I thank God for?
3. What happens to people who don't say thank you to God?

Answer the Questions above, by looking at the Scriptures below:

- Deuteronomy 32:6
- Nehemiah 9:26
- Ezekiel 16:17-18
- Luke 17:17-18
- Romans 1:21

After you're finished, read the text at the bottom of the page.

These verses are about people who should have been thankful and weren't. They got good things from God and then ignored him. Don't be one of those people! It's not a pretty sight. Whenever you feel grumpy, thank God for SOMETHING.

# Sermon Points on James 1

1. The Reward of our Steadfastness (12)
2. The Reputation of our Savior (13-15)
3. The Reliability of our Support (16-18)

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## Questions and Concepts

**Crown (1:12).** Victorious athletes and military leaders were crowned with garlands of flowers or wreaths of leaves. A different word was used for a king's crown. The victory crown for the Christian who perseveres is *life*.

1. Summarize the results of trials that James names in [1:1-12](#) ([1:3-4](#), [12](#)) and how we should therefore respond to trials ([1:2](#), [5-11](#)).

Results

Response

### Temptation (1:13-18)

2. God is never the source of temptation to evil ([1:13](#)). Of what things is He the source ([1:5](#), [16-18](#))?

3. From what you know about God's nature, why is it impossible that God could be responsible for your being tempted to do evil? (*Optional: See [1 John 1:5](#); [1 John 4:8-10](#).*)

4. a. What is the real source of temptations to sin ([1:14](#))?

b. What is the ultimate result ([1:15](#))?

c. The truth of [1:15](#) is an unavoidable law, as certain as the law of gravity. Think about the source of life. Why must desiring evil lead to death? (*Optional: See [Isaiah 59:2](#); [1 John 1:5-7](#); [1 John 5:11-13](#).*)