

HOPE

2013

GARY FIELD
D# M05398
CENTURY C.I.
CENTURY, FL.
32535
E1-103

The 5 Crowns

IN MOST OF MAN'S ENDEAVORS,
THERE ARE TREASURES, AWARDS AND PRIZES.
STEPS, LADDERS, GOALS AND LEVERS,
BY WHICH HE MEASURES HOW HE RISES.

THERE ARE OSCARS FOR THE MOVIES,
AND TONY'S FOR THE STAGE.
GRAMMYS IN THE MUSIC WORLD
THAT ALL SERVE AS A GAUGE.

THERE ARE PULITZERS FOR WRITERS
AND NOBELS FOR SCIENTISTS.
PEACE AWARDS FOR THOSE WHO RISE,
BY BEING "HUMANISTS"

THERE ARE HONORARY DOCTORATES -
FELLOSHIPS AND GRANTS,
CORONETS AND BARONETS,
IN ENGLAND AND IN FRANCE.

WORLD CUPS AND OLYMPIC GOLD
PENNANTS, BANNERS AND FLAGS -
ALL PRIZE YOU CAN HOLD,
AND GET YOUR PICTURE IN THE "MAGS"

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BUT A WAREHOUSE FULL OF TROPHIES
AND A TRUCKLOAD OF AWARDS
STATUES AND BIOGRAPHIES
AND OTHER SUCH REWARDS -

ONE DAY WILL LOSE THEIR LUSTER
BEGIN TO TARNISH AND RUST.

ONE DAY, EVEN THEIR 'LUSTER'
WILL SIMPLY RETURN TO DUST.

WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY MAY SURPRISE,
AND TO SOME, SEEM A BIT ABRUPT -
BUT THERE'S ANOTHER KIND OF PRIZE,
AND A CROWN THAT WON'T CORRUPT.

HEROES AND HEADS OF STATE
MIGHT NOT EVEN MAKE THIS LIST.
WEALTHY FOLKS WITH VAST ESTATES
MAY ALSO JUST BE DISMISSED.

ALTHOUGH WORKS CAN'T EARN OUR SALVATION,
ONCE 'SAVED', THEY CAN EARN OUR REWARDS,
AS WE OVERCOME TRIBULATION -
IT'S THE MARK THAT WE'RE PRESSING TOWARDS

AN INCORRUPTIBLE CROWN, FOR TEMPERANCE,
AND FOR EXHIBITING SELF CONTROL -
BRINGING THE FLESH INTO OBEDIENCE
OF THE SPIRIT - AND CLEANSING THE SOUL.

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THE CROWN OF LIFE IS FOR BEARING YOUR CROSS,
WITH FAITH - IT'S A DAILY SACRIFICE.
LEARNING TO REJOICE IN THE FACE OF LOSS,
AND KNOWING GOD'S GRACE WILL SUFFICE.

A CROWN OF RETORICKING FOR WINNING SOULS,
FOR PERSONAL EVANGELISM -
FOR TAKING PART IN THE GREAT COMMISSION,
SHINING GOD'S LOVE, AS IF THROUGH A PRISM.

THE CROWN OF GLORY FOR FEEDING THE FLOCK,
WITH THE NOURISHING WORD OF THE LORD.
HELPING THEM TO PLANT THEIR FEET UPON THE ROCK,
AND TEACHING THEM ABOUT HIS "SWORD".

THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL BELONG,
TO ALL THOSE WHO LOVE HIS APPEARING.
AND I'LL TELL YOU FRIEND - IT WON'T BE LONG -
IT'S SO CLEAR THAT THE TIME IS NEARING.

DECKED OUT IN WHITE ROBES AND GOWNS
AS THE HEAVENLY ANGELS SING.
THE SPIRITS OF GOD WILL LAY THOSE CROWNS
AT THE FOOT OF THE THRONE OF OUR KING.

WE RACE NOT FOR SOME CORRUPTIBLE CROWN,
AND NOT FOR THE PRAISES OF MEN.
AND ONCE WON, WE'LL GLADLY LAY THEM DOWN -
TO HEAR - "WELL DONE, MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL FRIEND"

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SEE - OUR HOPES ARE NOT LIKE OTHER MEN'S,
ONCE 'SAVED' - OUR PRIORITIES SHIFT.
WE LOOK AT LIFE THROUGH ANOTHER LENS,
AND SALVATION IS OUR GREATEST GIFT

IN ALL OF OUR ENDEAVORS
WHAT WE SEEK AS THE HIGHEST PRIZE,
IS TO ALWAYS DO WHATEVERS -
SEEN AS BEST IN THE MASTER'S EYES.

OUR CROWNS ARE INCORRUPTIBLE,
AND THE GLORY IS NOT OUR OWN.
OUR TREASURES ARE NOT BANKRUPTIBLE,
FOR THE 'RICHES' WE HAVE KNOWN...

ALL BEGIN AND END,
AT THE FOOT OF THE MASTER'S THRONE
Glory be to God!

INCORRUPTIBLE CROWN (1ST CORINTHIANS 9:25)
THE CROWN OF LIFE (JAMES 1:12, REVELATION 2:10)
CROWN OF REJOICING (1ST PESSALOMIANS 2:19)
CROWN OF GLORY (1ST PETER 5:4)
CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (2ND TIMOTHY 4:8)

"Behold, I come quickly: hold fast that
thou wast thou wast, that NO MAN TAKE
YOUR CROWN: REV. 3:10

I pray that, though for many, it will be as a
'thief in the night' - for you it is an "INSIDE JOB" ^{OU}
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