

**"The Promises to the Overcomers"**

**Part 1**

**Revelation 2:1-3:22**

**Introduction:** In our study of the book of Revelation we have worked our way through the 7 letters to the 7 churches. Today we are going to back up and look at the promises which Jesus made to the overcomers in these 7 churches.

**Notice Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26-28, 3:5, 12, 21**

These are the promises to the overcomers in each of these churches. The first thing we need to do before we look at the promises is that we need to define the overcomers.

I. **Who are the overcomers?**

This term "overcomer" has caused many people to get into a spiritual bind trying to explain who they are. The overcomer is really not difficult to define. Let us remember who it is that is writing the book of Revelation. It is the apostle John. He also wrote the Gospel of John, and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> John. Now let me take you to another one of John's books.

**1 John 5:4, 5**

<sup>4</sup> *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

<sup>5</sup> *Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

Here is the same writer and he defines the overcomer for us in 1 John. The overcomer is the person who is the true believer.

In the letters to the 7 churches Jesus addresses True believers as OVERCOMERS. The definition of the word "overcometh" means "one who is victorious or one who holds fast".

Now Jesus used this term because the title OVERCOMER describes the True believer. You see the mark of a True believer is one who holds fast to his faith until the end.

**Hebrews 3:14**

<sup>14</sup> *For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;*

**Hebrews 10:38, 39**

<sup>38</sup> Now the just shall live by faith: **but if any man draw back**, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

<sup>39</sup> But **we** are not of them who draw back unto perdition; **but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.**

The Bible is clear that the TRUE believer is one who holds fast to his or her faith to the end.

Now getting back to Revelation, Jesus used this title of the believer because he knew there would be unbelievers mixed in with the TRUE believers.

**Matthew 13:24-30a**

<sup>24</sup> Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

<sup>25</sup> But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

<sup>26</sup> But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

<sup>27</sup> So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

<sup>28</sup> He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

<sup>29</sup> But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

<sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest...

Jesus desires everyone who reads this letter to search their hearts. There are many people who THINK they are saved but are NOT.

**Matthew 7:13, 14**

<sup>13</sup> Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and **many** there be which go in thereat:

<sup>14</sup> Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

**Matthew 7:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

<sup>22</sup> ***Many** will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?*

<sup>23</sup> *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

## II. The Promises

### 1. No Death

#### Notice Revelation 2:7

The promise here is that we who are TRULY saved will be permitted to eat of the Tree of Life which is in the midst of the Paradise of God. What does this mean to you and me who know Jesus Christ as our Savior?

This Tree of Life first appears in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 2.

#### Genesis 2:8, 9

<sup>8</sup> *And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.*

<sup>9</sup> *And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*

After sin entered into the world God blocked the Tree of Life.

#### Genesis 3:21-24

<sup>21</sup> *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*

<sup>22</sup> *And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:*

<sup>23</sup> *Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.*

<sup>24</sup> *So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

If man had reached the Tree of Life in his sinful condition then that would have been a tragedy. God had a better plan and that was for man to die and be resurrected with a new body then live forever. The Tree of Life was then destroyed in the flood of Noah's day.

But there is a new Tree of Life. Let me show you where this Tree is located.

**Revelation 22:1, 2**

*And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.*

<sup>2</sup> *In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

Now let me tell you what this means. When the new heaven and the new earth are created in Genesis 21 PARADISE will be restored. The new earth will be like the Garden of Eden and that is where we will spend all of eternity. There will be no restrictions and listen to this, THERE WILL BE NO MORE DEATH for we will eat of the TREE of LIFE and we will live forever.

**Revelation 22:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> *And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:*

<sup>4</sup> *And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.*

<sup>5</sup> *And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

Then there is Revelation 21.

**Revelation 21:1-5**

*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.*

<sup>2</sup> *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

<sup>3</sup> *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.*

<sup>4</sup> *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.*

<sup>5</sup> *And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*

**2. No Second Death**

**Notice Revelation 2:11**

The idea here is that the True believer will NOT be treated unjustly by experiencing the second death. But what is the second death/

In the Bible death means SEPERATION and there are 3 kinds of death.

1. **Spiritual Death** - and this is what we are born into. We are born spiritually dead which means we are born separated from God.

### Isaiah 59:2

*<sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

2. **Physical Death** - This happens when we die and it is the SEPERATION of the body from soul.
3. **Second Death** - This second death is recorded in Revelation 20.

### Revelation 20:11-15

*<sup>11</sup> And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

*<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

*<sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

*<sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

*<sup>15</sup> And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

As True believers we will not have a part in this. This is ETERNAL SEPERATION from God.

Now let me make it really simple for you. When Jesus says the OVERCOMER will not be hurt by the second death He is saying that in Him we are ETERNALLY SECURE. We never need to be worried about losing our salvation.

### Conclusion:

These are 2 great promises for those of us who are believers.

Are you sure you are saved? If you die without Jesus you will live forever in your sinful body eternally separated from God. Let me take you back to the beginning.

**Matthew 7:13, 14**

<sup>13</sup> *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

<sup>14</sup> *Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

**Luke 13:23, 24**

<sup>23</sup> *Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,*

<sup>24</sup> *Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.*