

"The Promises to the Overcomers"

Part 3

Revelation 2:1-3:22

Introduction: Several weeks ago in our study of the book of Revelation we started to look at the promises to the OVERCOMERS which are found in each of the letters written to the 7 churches. When we started we ask a question:

I. **Who are the Overcomers?**

1 John 5:4, 5

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

⁵ *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.

Every promise to the overcomers in these letters is all promises which we can rest in as believers.

Now we have looked at several of the promises to the overcomers. Today we have come to the promises which Jesus made to the church at Thyatira.

I. **Thyatira**

a. **The Promise of a New Position**

This city was known for several things. They manufactured a purple dye which came from a certain kind of root. While the city was small there was one thing which was big within the city and that was the "TRADE GUILDS". Trade guilds were comparable to UNIONS today. In Thyatira each trade had its own guild and there were many of them.

There were guilds of bakers, potters, workers in brass, tanners, leather-cutters, workers in wool and flax, and dyers. Those who worked in wool and the dyers were probably the most numerous of all. This is something which played a big part in the problem within the church.

Each trade guild had its own god and if you belonged then you were required to go to the feasts for the god and you were required to participate in their orgies. If you did not participate then you would lose your job.

Now some would say they should just not join the trade the guild.

Listen to the words of Barclay:

"No merchant or trader could hope to prosper or make money unless he was a member of his trade guild."

So the True believer who stood for the Truth and refused to submit to the pressures of his or her day would surely struggle for they would be viewed as the outcasts of their day. With this in mind we can better understand what the promise would mean to them.

Notice Revelation 2:26

The one who keeps His works unto the end is the one who is truly saved.

Hebrews 3:6, 14

⁶ *But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.*

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

Jesus tells those who are truly saved at Thyatira that they will be given power over the nations.

Notice Revelation 2:27

Here John quotes from Psalm 2 which speaks of the reign of Jesus Christ on this earth when He sets up His Kingdom.

Now let me explain what this would mean to the believers at Thyatira. As they stood for Jesus Christ in the midst of their day and refused to be a part of the guilds and the false worship, it would have been very costly for them. Many lost their jobs and so they lost their income. As they stood for Jesus and refused to bow to the false gods they would have been viewed as the outcasts. They would never be people of prominence in the city of Thyatira. Their stand for Jesus Christ would come with a high cost.

But while their stand would cost them in the city of Thyatira it would at the same time assure them a NEW POSITION of authority in the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ. These people would die and in the Rapture their bodies will be raised and glorified. They

will be caught up to be with the Lord when we are. Then they will return at the end of the Tribulation to this earth and when Jesus sets up His Kingdom they will be given authority over the Nations. In other words they will rule and reign with Jesus Christ.

Application:

This very same Truth also applies to our lives as well. We stand for Jesus Christ in this world and there is going to be a cost.

Luke 14:25-28

²⁵ *And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,*

²⁶ *If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*

²⁷ *And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*

²⁸ *For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?*

As we stand for Jesus Christ it may keep us from having a prominent position in this world. But when the Kingdom is set up we will be given power over the Nations.

Let me remind you of what Jesus told the believers at Philadelphia.

Revelation 3:9

⁹ *Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.*

We may be despised in this world and we may be treated unfairly but when Jesus sets up Kingdom you and I will have positions of great honor as we serve with our Lord.

Revelation 19:1-6

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

² *And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,*

³ *And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

⁴ *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

⁵ *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

⁶ *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, **but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.***

b. **The Promise of a New Hope**

Notice Revelation 2:28

This is an amazing statement! In order to grasp onto what Jesus is saying here we need to look at a few other Scriptures.

Malachi 4:1-3

For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

² *But unto you that fear my name shall **the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings;** and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*

³ *And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.*

Here in these verses Malachi is pointing to the return of Jesus Christ at the end of the Great Tribulation and He will heal those who have been beaten and bruised who have made it through the Great Tribulation. Let me show you a passage which will help with this.

Isaiah 35:5-6

⁵ *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.*

⁶ *Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.*

So Jesus as the SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS will rise at the end of the Great Tribulation.

But here in our text we are told that the saved will be given the Morning Star. Jesus is also called the Morning Star.

Revelation 22:16

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**.*

Now listen to this; you may have never seen the morning star because it appears very early in the morning. It actually appears when the sky first begins to lighten up and it appears way before the sun rises. When Jesus promises that believers will be given the Morning Star He is promising the Rapture. He is pictured as the Rising Sun when He appears at the end of the Great Tribulation and because the Morning Star appears before the Rising Sun we can be sure that Jesus is speaking of the Rapture.

Not only do we have the promise of a New Position in the Kingdom but we also have a New Hope in Christ. We might struggle as we go through this world and we may suffer because of our stand but we have this hope of the Rapture and at any moment we can be caught up to heaven.

II. **Sardis**

a. **The Promise of a New Security**

There are many things in this life which people cling to but the bottom line is that there is nothing of this world that is secure. But that which the believer has in Christ is secure.

Notice Revelation 3:5

There are 2 points in this verse which point to our security in Christ.

1. **We are promised white raiment.**

In the Bible white garments are symbolic of redemption.

Isaiah 1:18

¹⁸ *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as **white as snow**; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

When we return to the earth with Christ we will be clothed in white raiment.

Revelation 19:7-8

⁷ *Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Let me show you what happens when a sinner receives Christ as their Savior.

Romans 3:22

²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

We are covered in the righteousness of Christ the moment we are saved. This means when God looks upon us He sees us covered in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

2. We are promised an eternal place in the book of life.

Notice Revelation 3:5

We know that the overcomer is the true believer. Here then we see that our names will never be blotted out of the book of life.

This gives us the idea that every person's name is recorded in the book of life and those who reject Jesus Christ are blotted out. This fits perfectly with several verses.

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

² And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Hebrews 2:9

⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Conclusion:

These are the promises for the believers.

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AM Service

Now let me remind you that *God* desires for you to be saved so much that He has sent Jesus to die for your sins and He has entered your name in the book of life. If you will repent and receive Jesus Christ as your Savior *God* will NEVER blot your name out of the book of Life.

The choice is yours.