

"The Promises to the Overcomers"

Part 4

Revelation 2:1-3:22

Introduction: Today in our study of the book of Revelation we are going to look at one more message on the subject of "The Promises to the Overcomers". We have looked so far at the promises made to the believers at Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, and Sardis. We will review these at the end of our message today and in the review we will see some very interesting spiritual Truth.

However, we have 2 more promises to look at. The promises to the church at Philadelphia and the promise to the church at Laodicea. Before we get into the last 2 promises let me quickly review a few points which we have already considered.

➤ **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.

John is very clear I 1 John that the overcomers are those who are True believers. So base upon this Truth we can be sure that each of the promises given to these 7 churches are applicable to our lives today because we who know Jesus Christ are also the body of Christ just as the believers of these 7 churches were.

I. Philadelphia

a. The Promise of Stability

Background:

The city of Philadelphia was built on a volcanic mountain range and the city experienced many earthquakes. So the people within the church at Philadelphia understood a stable foundation.

Notice Revelation 3:12

Here we see that Jesus promised the believers that He would make them pillars in the Temple of His God and they would go out no more.

Now this promise finds it full meaning in eternity which we will look at in the closing of this message but at the same time there is a beautiful application for our lives today. This is the promise of stability which we have as we walk with our Heavenly Father.

As we read of the blessings which we have in Christ as we search the Scriptures it is supposed by the Holy Spirit that we are walking in the will of God for our lives. So as we come to Jesus Christ and we rest our faith in Him for salvation and we seek and we walk in His will there is a stability which we enter into. Let me give you a glimpse of this stability.

Philippians 4:6, 7

⁶ *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

⁷ *And **the peace of God**, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Let me show you some other verses.

Psalm 29:11

¹¹ *The LORD will give strength unto his people; **the LORD will bless his people with peace.***

Isaiah 26:3, 4

³ ***Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.***

⁴ *Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:*

Jeremiah 17:7, 8

⁷ *Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.*

⁸ *For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.*

The point is there is a spiritual stability available to those who are saved when they walk in the will of God and they rest their faith in Him.

b. The Promise of Fellowship.

Notice Revelation 3:12 again.

Jesus tells the believers here that they shall go no more out. One of the blessings which we have as believers is that we have access unto the throne of God at any time we desire.

In the Old Testament the common person could never enter into the presence of God. It was only the high priest which had access into the Holy of Holies where God met with him. Under the New Covenant it is much different. When Jesus died upon the cross He made a way for all believers to come into the presence of God.

Matthew 27:50, 51

⁵⁰ *Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.*

⁵¹ *And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;*

The veil hung in the Temple and it separated man from God. The veil represented sin which has separated man from God but when Jesus died the veil was torn from the top to the bottom which shows that Jesus has made a way into the presence of God.

Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

¹⁵ *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

c. The Promise of Security.

Notice Revelation 3:12 again.

Jesus tells us here that He will write upon us the name of His God and the name of the city of His God which is New Jerusalem. The name of God written on us speaks of ownership and the name of the city written on us shows our residency.

1. **We have been purchased by God with the blood of Jesus Christ.**

Let me show you what Paul recorded in Ephesians.

Ephesians 1:6, 7, 12-14

⁶ *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

⁷ *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*

¹² *That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.*

¹³ *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

¹⁴ *Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

We have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ and therefore we belong to God. He has given a DOWN PAYMENT on His possession which is the Holy Spirit.

Illustration of Redemption:

"A little boy worked very hard, and, with a fine piece of wood and some tools, made himself a fine little yacht. He was very proud of it, and used to go to the lake with the other boys who had their yachts also, and sail it on the tranquil waters of the lake near his home. One day it drifted away out of sight, carried by a strong breeze and all the lad's efforts to reach it or even follow it with his eye, were unsuccessful. Some days later, as he was going through the busy street where most of the shops were, he saw the yacht in a shop window. He went in and claimed it as his lost yacht. But in spite of all his claims, and his repeated assertion that he had made it with his own hands, the shopkeeper said, 'If you want it, you must pay for it.' He returned home, counted up his little savings in his money box and found he had just sufficient to meet the cost of the yacht. So he went in and bought it back. 'You're twice mine!' he exclaimed, as he looked thankfully and proudly at his little yacht: 'I made you and I've purchased you.'"

Let us notice what Jesus said in John 10.

John 10:27-30

²⁷ *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

²⁸ *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

²⁹ *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

³⁰ *I and my Father are one.*

2. We have a residence in heaven.

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

² *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

³ *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

Let me give you a glimpse of our eternal home and the conditions there.

Revelation 21:1-7

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.*

⁵ *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.*

⁶ *And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*

⁷ *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

II. **Laodicea**

a. **The Promise of Authority**

Notice Revelation 3:21

This very is very important to understand. There are 2 thrones mentioned in this verse. Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father at this time and He serves there as our Great High Priest. When He sets up His Kingdom on earth He will sit on a different throne and then He will be the King of His Kingdom. This promise to us who are believers is that we will be given authority in the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

This is the final step in the believer's salvation. This is what Paul wrote about in Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:6

⁶And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

Conclusion:

We have looked at all the promises to the overcomers but in our journey we missed something very important. The promises to the overcomers tell a story when they are looked at in order. These promises show a complete picture of the believer's salvation.

1. Ephesus - The promise to eat of the tree of life.
2. Smyrna - The promise to not be hurt of the second death.
3. Pergamos - The promise of the hidden manna and the promise of a new name.
4. Thyatira - The promise of power over the nations.
5. Sardis - The promise of white raiment and the promise to NOT have our name blotted out of the book of life and Jesus confesses our name before the Father and the angels.
6. Philadelphia - The promise of being a pillar and never going out. The promise of having God's name, Jesus' name and the name of New Jerusalem.
7. Laodicea - The promise to sit upon the throne with Christ.