

The Book of Revelation

Part 7

Chapters 2 & 3 – Letters to the Seven Churches

A. Empowered to Prosper in the Ending Days

1. The Process of Prospering

Rev 1:3 Blessed is he that reads, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Mat 7:24 Therefore whosoever hears these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.

2. Success in Christ Jesus

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye **saved** through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

• *Sozo (Sode-zo): Deliver, protect, heal, preserve, be well, do well, make whole.*

Joh 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; v32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Psa 91:1 He that dwells in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. v2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. v10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

Luk 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

3. Your Calling is to be an Overcomer.

a) Necessary Conditions for Overcoming

In the entire Bible, the word “overcometh” is used in 10 verses. Two are here.

1Jn 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

1Jn 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

b) Stages of Overcoming (i.e., in the context of salvation)

Rom 8:10 Confession to **Salvation** (It includes all promises contained in the Names of God).

• *Soteria: Rescue, safety, deliverance, health, saving.*

Rom 4:3 Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Psa 105:36 He smote also all the firstborn in their land, the chief of all their strength.

Psa 105:37 He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes. v38 Egypt was glad when they departed: for they feared them.

Jos 23:5 The LORD your God, he shall expel them from before you, and drive them from out of your sight; and ye shall possess their land, as the LORD your God hath promised unto you.

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Luk 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

c) Rewards for Overcoming.

The word, “Overcometh” is used 8 times in the Book of Revelation. One is here below and the other 7 times are once for each church in chapters 2 & 3.

Rev 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

B. The Seven Letters

1. Addressed to the angel of the church

The angel of the church represents the church in the spiritual as the pastor does in the physical.

The letter to each church is meant for both pastor and angel; but also for all believers.

Prayer authorizes angels to act on your behalf. God could not interfere as satan tempted Adam; in the same manner, angels only act when you give them permission to intervene in your life.

Heb 1:14 Angels are ministering spirits, sent to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.

2. Conditions and Promises (rewards)

All the promises of God belong to the believer but it is a partnership. Meet the conditions, acquire the blessing. Rev 12:11 The Blood is Jesus' part; the testimony, the word of our mouth, is our part. Eph 1:3 God hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

2Pe 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death (*i.e., they chose a consecrated life, to live for God*).

3. The Glorious Church

Jesus gives an evaluation of each church and then specifies steps to be taken to be an overcomer. The purpose of overcoming is for each believer to grow into being part of the Glorious Church.

C. The Glorious Church

1. Characteristics of the Glorious Church

Rom 8:19 For the earnest expectation of creation await the manifestation of the sons of God.

Eph 5:27 Jesus might present to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Mat 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. *We need to choose to die to self, to pride, selfishness and sin.* Refer to Jam 4:8.

Rom 8:37 In all these things, we are super-conquerors.

2. Necessary Conditions for being part of the Glorious Church

To every church, Jesus says, "I know thy works."

Rev 2:4 **Ephesus:** I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Rev 2:5 Remember from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works.

Rev 2:8 **Smyrna:** Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Rev 2:14 **Pergamos:** You have them that hold the doctrines of heresy of Balaam and Nicolaitans.

Rev 2:18 **Thyatira:** You allow that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Rev 3:1 **Sardis:** Thou livest but are dead. v2 I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Rev 3:3 Repent. v: 4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

Rev 3:7 **Philadelphia:** Thou hast a little strength, & has kept my word, has not denied my name.

v: 9 know that I have loved thee. v10 hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Rev 3:14 **Laodicea** thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

Rev 3:16 Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.

3. Rewards for being part of the Glorious Church

To each church, Jesus says, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh"

Rev 2:7 **Ephesus:** will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Rev 2:11 **Smyrna:** shall not be hurt of the second death.

Rev 2:17 **Pergamos:** will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Rev 2:26 **Thyatira:** will I give power over the nations.

Rev 3:5 **Sardis:** the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Rev 3:12 **Philadelphia:** will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Rev 3:14 **Laodicea** v21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.