

Eating from the Tree of Life

PROMISES TO OVERCOMERS SERIES

Text: Revelation 2:1-7

Revelation 2:7 NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." '

Introduction

(Play Larnell Harris's "I Miss My Time With You")

In these passages in Revelation which contain promises to overcomers there are four elements to the messages: a commendation, a reprimand, an instruction and a promise. Not all promises are associated with all the elements.

I. What the Lord liked

Revelation 2:2-4, 6 NKJV "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; {3} "and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. {6} "But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

- A. Tireless labor
- B. Patience
- C. Intolerance for evil
- D. Testing false brethren
- E. Worked for His name's sake
- F. Hated the immorality of the Nicolaitans

II. What the Lord disliked

Revelation 2:4-5 NKJV "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. {5} "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place; unless you repent.

- A. Their love for Jesus had grown cold
- B. Their devotion is to the church; not the Lord of the church

III. The Lord's instructions

Revelation 2:5 NKJV "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place; unless you repent.

- A. Repent - "About Face!!!"
- B. Do the first works

IV. The promise to the overcomer

Revelation 2:7 NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." '

- A. The overcomer will eat from the tree of life
- B. How to overcome
 - 1. Repent
 - 2. Make Jesus the object of your devotion
 - a. Long to please Him
 - b. Long to be with Him

Immune to the Second Death

PROMISES TO OVERCOMERS SERIES

Scripture:

Revelation 2:8-11

Revelation 2:11 NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." '

Introduction

This church receives no rebuke, only commendation, encouragement and two promises.

I. What they must overcome

Revelation 2:8-10 NKJV "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: {9} "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. {10} "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days.

- A. Life circumstances
 - 1. Afflicted
 - 2. Impoverished
 - 3. Slandered
 - 4. Imprisoned
 - 5. Persecuted
- B. A world view that the Smyrnans were people of failure and foolishness

II. The words of exhortation

Revelation 2:10b NKJV Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

- A. Be faithful
 - 1. NKJV until death
 - 2. NIV even to the point of death
- B. God viewed them as being rich
- C. A crown of life for their faithfulness

III. The overcomer's promise

Revelation 2:11 NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." '

- A. You will not be (NIV) hurt at all by the second death

Revelation 20:14 NKJV Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

- B. How to be an overcomer
 - 1. Be faithful
 - a. Stand in your place
 - b. Do only what He orders
 - c. Obey him fully without question
 - 2. Have endurance
 - 3. Stand the test

Revelation 2:10b NKJV Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested

The Hidden Manna and The White Stone

PROMISES TO OVERCOMERS SERIES

Text:

Revelation 2:12-17

Revelation 2:17 NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it." '

Introduction

This church had to overcome insidious influence of an evil environment which caused them to compromise their spiritual and moral standards.

I. The character of these people

Revelation 2:13 NKJV "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

- A. They lived where Satan had his throne
 - 1. A throne is a seat of authority
 - 2. This was a place where Satan and what he stood for was honored
- B. They were steadfast in their faith in Jesus
 - 1. In spite of the spiritual surroundings
 - 2. In the face of persecution
 - 3. After witnessing one of their own become a martyr

II. The nature of their failure

Revelation 2:14-15 NKJV "But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. {15} "Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. {16} 'Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

- A. They were too tolerant
- B. They allowed immorality and idol worship to infiltrate their ranks
- C. They were coming under the influence of the satanic system around them

III. The process of overcoming and promise to the overcomer

Revelation 2:17 NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it." '

- A. The hidden manna

John 6:31-35 NKJV "Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " {32} Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. {33} "For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." {34} Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." {35} And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

- B. The white stone
 - 1. Used by jurors to vote "Not Guilty"
 - 2. Jesus has voted you "Not Guilty"
- C. The new name people
 - 1. Abram (high father) - Abraham (father of a multitude)

Genesis 17:5 NKJV "No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

2. Sarai (dominative) - Sarah (a female noble, princess, queen)
Genesis 17:15 NKJV Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.
3. Jacob (heel catcher, supplanter) - Israel (He will rule as God)
Genesis 32:28 NKJV And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."
4. Saul (great) - Paul (little)
Acts 13:9 NKJV Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

Authority Over Nations and the Morning Star

PROMISES TO OVERCOMERS SERIES

Text:

Revelation 2:18-29

Revelation 2:26-28 NKJV "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations; {27} 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'; as I also have received from My Father; {28} "and I will give him the morning star.

Introduction

Here is a promise built upon relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The promise is authority of the nations. The condition for receiving the promise is that we walk with Him.

I. Promise

Revelation 2:26-28 NKJV "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations; {27} 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'; as I also have received from My Father; {28} "and I will give him the morning star.

- A. Authority over the nations
- B. The morning star

Revelation 22:16 NKJV "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

II. Commendation

Revelation 2:19 NKJV "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

- A. What He knows about them
 - 1. Works
 - 2. Love
 - 3. Service
 - 4. Faith
 - 5. Patience
- B. Their works are increasing

III. Consternation

Revelation 2:20a NKJV "Nevertheless I have a few things against you....

- A. The Lord's grief

Revelation 2:20b NKJV ... you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

- B. The Lord's mercy

Revelation 2:21 NKJV "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

- C. The Lord's judgment

Revelation 2:22-23 NKJV "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. {23} "I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

IV. Commandment

Revelation 2:24-25 NKJV "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. {25} "But hold fast what you have till I come.

- A. Commandment addressed to:

- 1. Those who have not participated in Jezebel's doctrine

2. Those who have not known the depths of Satan
- B. The grace He gives
 - Revelation 2:24c NKJV** ...I will put on you no other burden.
 - C. Hold fast what you have till I come

Dressed in White, Name Kept in Book of Life, Confessed Before the Father

PROMISES TO OVERCOMERS SERIES

Text:

Revelation 3:1-6

Revelation 3:5 NKJV "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Introduction

Here are three great promises to an almost dead church. Those who overcome their spiritual rigor mortise will walk with Jesus in white.

I. Reputation vs. reality

Revelation 3:1 NKJV "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

- A. Reputation
 - 1. Life
 - 2. Vitality
- B. Reality
 - 1. Dead
 - 2. Powerless
 - 3. Valueless

II. Exhortation

Revelation 3:2-3 NKJV "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. {3} "Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

- A. Five exhortations
 - 1. Watch
 - 2. Strengthen what remains
 - 3. Remember
 - 4. Hold fast
 - 5. Repent
- B. Alternative to heeding the exhortation
 - 1. I will come as a thief
 - 2. You will not know the hour I come

III. Promise

Revelation 3:4-5 NKJV "You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. {5} "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

- A. They shall walk with me in white

Revelation 7:13-15 NKJV Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" {14} And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. {15} "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

- 1. Cleansed by the blood of the Lamb

2. Before the throne of God day and night
- B. I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life
Revelation 20:15, 21:27 NKJV And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. {21:27} But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.
 - C. I will confess his name before My Father
Matthew 10:32 NKJV "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

The Open Door, Made a Pillar in the Temple

PROMISES TO OVERCOMERS SERIES

Text:

Revelation 3:7-13

Revelation 3:7-8 NKJV "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, 'He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens': {8} 'I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

Revelation 3:12 NKJV "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

Revelation 4:1 NKJV After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

Introduction

This church received no reprimand, only commendation. It was a church that walked in weakness, but was faithful. To the church in Philadelphia, God gave only present and future promises.

I. Commendation

Revelation 3:8b NKJV "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

A. You have a little strength

Ephesians 6:10 NKJV Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

B. You have kept My word

Joshua 1:8 NKJV "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

C. You have not denied My name

Philippians 2:14-16 NKJV Do all things without complaining and disputing, {15} that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, {16} holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

1907. epecho, ep-ekh'-o; from G1909 and G2192; to hold upon, i.e. (by impl.) to retain; (by extens.) to detain; (with impl. of G3563) to pay attention to:--give (take) heed unto, hold forth, mark, stay.

II. Present promises -- promises for now

Revelation 3:7 NKJV "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, 'He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens'"

A. The open door

Revelation 3:8a NKJV I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it;

Revelation 4:1 NKJV After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

B. Respect from unbelieving pretenders

Revelation 3:9 NKJV "Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie; indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.

III. Future promises -- promises for eternity

Revelation 3:12 NKJV "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

A. Preserved from the tribulation

Revelation 3:10 NKJV "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

B. The overcomer's promise

1. I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God
2. He shall go out no more
3. A new identity
 - a. Identified with God
 - b. Identified as a citizen of New Jerusalem
 - c. Identified with Jesus Christ

The Right to Sit with Christ on His Throne

PROMISES TO OVERCOMERS SERIES

Text:

Revelation 3:14-22

Revelation 3:20-21 NKJV "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Philippians 3:7-9 NKJV But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

Mark 8:36 NKJV "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"

Introduction

It was the church that had everything but had nothing. It had wealth, esteem, no perceived needs, yet the Lord Jesus Christ considered this church totally impoverished. In material goods it lacked nothing, in spiritual excellence and relationship with Jesus, it lacked everything.

I. The church's attitude

Revelation 3:17a NKJV "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing';

- A. Characteristic of American society
 - 1. Thinks it has everything
 - 2. Thinks it needs nothing
- B. Characteristic of American church
 - 1. Has its buildings
 - 2. Has its programs
 - 3. Has its people
 - 4. Has its plans

II. The Lord's view of this church

Revelation 3:17b NKJV... and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked;

- A. No purpose
- B. No power
- C. No personal relationship with it's Lord
- D. No prospect of change
- E. No perception of reality

III. The invitation: "Come into relationship"

Revelation 3:20 NKJV "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

- A. The call: "Let me into your life so I can let you into mine."
- B. The promise

Revelation 3:21 NKJV "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.