

WHAT JESUS LOOKS FOR IN A CHURCH (Christ's Messages to the Seven Churches in Revelation 2-3)

THE OVERCOMER PROMISES

INTRODUCTION: The overcomer promises are given to Christians who conquer life's trials & temptations to demonstrate their devotion to Christ. The promises accomplish two things. First, they provide the overcomer confirmation of salvation. Their overcoming does not earn salvation, but gives proof of salvation. Second, they provide the overcomer encouragement to remain faithful to Christ when encountering adversity & persecution knowing a glorious future awaits the believer. All the references to blessings in the afterlife and eternal rewards make the clear statement to the believer a better day is coming which should provide hope and strength to persevere today!

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **Romans 8: 18**

For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. **2 Cor. 4:17-18**

“Whatever price the overcoming extracts in this life, the cost will be nothing compared to the incalculable benefits in eternity.” **Richard Mayhue**

EPHESUS - To the overcomer who loves Christ first and foremost, Christ promises abundant life with Him in an eternal paradise.

To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God. **Revelation 2: 7b**

SMYRNA - To the overcomer who is faithful to Christ in suffering, Christ promises rescue from God's judgment and the reward of the victor's crown.

Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life...He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death. **Revelation 2: 10c-11b**

PERGAMUM - To the overcomer who walks in uncompromising obedience to God's Word, Christ promises His presence and provision throughout eternity and special recognition in heaven.

To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it. Revelation 2: 17b

THYATIRA - To the overcomer who walks in moral purity and grows in holy character, Christ promises a special position of power and glory in assisting Him to administer His Millennial Kingdom on earth.

And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. Revelation 2: 26-28

SARDIS - To the overcomer who applies faith to life, Christ promises the robe of shining purity and glory that all will see, eternal security, and divine affirmation.

He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels. Revelation 3: 5

PHILADELPHIA - To the overcomer who demonstrates a bold faith to advance the gospel, Christ promises permanent residence in the heavenly city, as one owned by God, with eternal citizenship in heaven, and completely Christ's forever!

He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write upon 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 My new name. Rev. 3: 12

LAODICEA - To the overcomer who gives wholehearted surrender to Christ, Christ promises the privilege to rule with Him throughout eternity.

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