



Sermon Summary

February 18, 2024

Nike - Victory Revelation 2 and 3

Revelation chapters two and three have seven letters that are Jesus' words to churches in the region that is modern day Turkey. In each letter, Jesus makes promises to the "one who conquers" (variously translated as "one who overcomes" – KJV; "one who is victorious" - NIV). These English translations are from the Greek word *nike* which means to conquer, overcome, prevail, get the victory. The shoe company Nike is named after the Greek goddess of victory which obviously takes her name from the Greek word for victory. The conquerors in these letters aren't a special class of Christians. These are promises to all Christians because Jesus Christ is the conqueror and we are in Him (Romans 8:37-39; Ephesians 2:20-23, 1 John 5:4-5). However, these letters were written to churches which may have had believers and unbelievers in them. There were certainly believers who needed to repent of sin and shortcomings. So, the admonishment is also given, "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen the what the Spirit says to the churches."

Eternal Life

The promise in Revelation 2:7 is "the one who conquers, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God." In Revelation 2:11 it's, "the one who conquers will never be harmed by the second death." These promises are the two sides of the same coin. The second death is when all unbelievers of all time are judged and thrown into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:14; 21:8). The believer is saved from the horrible fate. But even more, the believer gets to live in heaven with God for eternity. The tree of life symbolizes eternal life and paradise is another word for heaven.

Presence of God

The promise in Revelation 2:17 is for some of the hidden manna, a white stone and a new name on the stone. In Revelation 3:5, the conqueror will be dressed in white clothes and his name will never be erased from the book of life. In Revelation 3:12 it's God will make the conqueror a pillar in the temple of God, and the conqueror will have written on him the name of God, the name of God's city and God's new name. Jesus is the bread of life. So, the manna symbolizes Jesus' presence. The temple of God certainly symbolizes the presence of God. To be named by God and have his name written on us symbolizes His ownership of us. We are His and we can never be taken away from Him. The clothes we're promised symbolize the righteousness of Christ which will be given to us and allow us to live in God's presence.

Rule with Jesus

The promise in Revelation 2:26, 27 is to have authority over the nations and rule in the authority of Jesus and receive the morning star. In Revelation 3:21 the conqueror is given the right to sit with Jesus on His throne. At one time we were enemies of God. Because in His love He saved us, He not only calls us friend, and brother, He calls us co-regents with Him in His kingdom!

The Gospel

Bad News

Heaven is a place for perfect people, but you're not perfect.

Revelation 20:27 "Nothing impure will ever enter it [heaven]. Nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful..."

You are a sinner

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

James 2:10 "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking it all."

The penalty for sin is death

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death"

You can't save yourself

Titus 3:5 "He saved us not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy."

Romans 4:5 "However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness."

Good News

Jesus Christ died in your place to pay the penalty of sin for you

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation

John 14:6 "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me."

You can be saved by faith by trusting in Jesus

Repentance

Acts 20:21 "I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus."

Believing

Romans 10:9 "If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Acts 16:31 "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."

Trusting

Ephesians 2:8,9 "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast."

John 1:12 "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."