

Rev.1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must shortly take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,

V.3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

V.4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne;

V.5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood,

V.6 and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

V.7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen.

V.8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, " who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

V.10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet,

V.11 saying, " Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

V.12 And I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;

V.13 and in the middle of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His breast with a golden girdle.

V.14 And His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire;

V.15 and His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.

V.16 And in His right hand He held seven stars; and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

V.17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, " Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,

V.18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

V.19 " Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things.

V.20 "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

3:14 "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

V.15 ' I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot.

V.16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

V.17 'Because you say, " I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,

V.18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see.

V.19 ' Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent.

V.20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.

V.21 ' 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.

V.22 ' He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

V.16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

1. "I will spit you out of My mouth"

a. I believe that by and large the Laodicean Church age **is** the church age of today

b. "Spitting them out" speaks of His disapproval w/ them

c. The question has been raised

i. Is this the apostate church?

ii. Are these believers who have lost their salvation?

d. They are believers – we have the first hint of this in **V.16**

V.16 "I'm thinking about spitting you out"

*He hasn't decided whether to spit them out or not,

*He must be talking to believers

e. We also know they are believers b/c He doesn't address them in the manner of addressing unbelievers

f. Can they lose their salvation?

i. Scripture is replete w/ verses that make it clear that believers can't lose their salvation

ii. Even the simplest of verses

Jn.3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have **eternal life**.

Jn.3:36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Jn.5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

- iii. Eternal life is more than just living forever
- iv. It is a quality of life beyond what we can now imagine – but it is already ours at the moment we believe

g. What was their sin that made Him sick? **V.17**

V.17 *'Because you say, " I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,*

- 1. "Because you say, " I am rich..."
 - a. They had become so preoccupied by the world that they lost sight of what mattered. They began to look for fulfillment in the things of the world
 - b. What is the remedy for such a lack of understanding? **V.18**

V.18 I advise you *to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see.*

- 1. "to **buy** from Me gold refined by fire...white clothes...eye salve"
 - a. He isn't talking to lost people
 - i. You can't **buy** salvation!

Rom.4:4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due.

⁵ But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,

6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Eph,2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

⁹not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

***God would never tell anyone to buy salvation**

- b. But as a believer we are to work for the future rewards awaiting us

Col.3:23(NIV) Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,

²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

1 Cor.9:17(NIV) If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me.

V.24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

²⁶ Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.

²⁷ No, I beat my body and make it my slave **so that** after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Jn.12:26 "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant also be; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

c. On the negative side of rewards

Mat.6:1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have **no reward with your Father who is in heaven.**

2 Jn.1:8 Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.

V.19 ' *Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline;* be zealous therefore, and *repent.*

1. "Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline"

a. God deals w/ them as His children

Prov.3:12 For whom the LORD loves He reproves, Even as a father, the son in whom he delights.

Heb.12:7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline?

2. "repent"

a. They are to repent of their sins & move back into a relationship w/ God

V.20 '*Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him,* and will dine with him, and he with Me.

1. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock"

a. I wish I knew how many times this has been used as a salvation verse

b. It is in truth a verse on fellowship

2. "if **anyone** hears"

- a. This isn't an invitation to the Church – it is an invitation for every **individual believer** in the Church
 - i. No one is cursed to live second class life as believer just b/c the Church isn't doing well today
 - ii. Every person whether in a good Church or not is accountable to God for the life they live
 - iii. We all have an opportunity to live the vibrant Christian life
3. "if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him...dine w/ him...he w/ Me"
- a. "if anyone hears My voice"
 - i. It is in the subjunctive mood – the choice is yours
 - b. "and opens the door"
 - i. This is in the subjunctive mood also – the choice is yours
 - ii. As was buying from God the gold, white raiment, eye salve

V.18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich^(subjunctive mood) and white garments, that you may clothe yourself^(subjunctive mood) and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see^(subjunctive mood).
 - c. "I will dine w/ him"
 - i. Christ is **guest** in your life
 - d. "he w/ Me"
 - i. He is **host** of your life – you are the guest
 - ii. This means you get to go on the ride of your life w/ Him

V.21 ' 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.

1. "He who overcomes"
 - a. Who is an "overcomer"?
 - i. The word "to overcome" is the word "νικῶ" from root word νίκη for victory
 - ii. It is used in a nonspecific way in Scripture
 - iii. But it is obviously a technical term also – speaking of someone who has trusted Christ for salvation
 - b. An overcomer is someone who puts their trust in Christ
 - c. When looking at the population of the world all people fall into one of two categories: they are either **#1.lost #2.saved**
 - i. Anyone who is saved is an overcomer

1 Jn.5:4(ESV) For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has

overcome the world—our faith.

⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

- ii.
- d. Apparently there is another level of being an overcomer
 - i. It is more than just being saved –
 - ii. It is living like someone who is thinking & acting bigger than the world
- e. Every one of the letters to the different churches ended w/ a promise to the ones who overcome
 - i. In each of those cases **overcomer can't be referring just to someone who believes**
 1. Encouraging them to become overcomers would be meaningless – they were already believers

Example:

- f. To the believers of Ephesus – they had lost their vibrant love for God
 - i. They needed to regain that love

Rev.2:7 ' He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.'
- g. To the believers of Smyrna – they were being slaughtered (martyred)
 - i. They needed to continue to persevere in the face of death

Rev.2:10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

¹¹ ' 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.'
- h. To the believers in Pergamum – They were falling in love w/ world & its pleasures
 - i. They needed to individually break away from the carnal believers around them
 - ii. Turn from immorality & a mindset of love of the world

Rev.2:17 ' He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. 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.'
 - iii. And so it is w/ each of the Churches throughout all the ages

iv. Each body of believers & each & every believer has sin/sins that would trip them up

1. Each of us must deal w/ those sins that entangle us

Heb.12:1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

v.

V.22 ' *He who has an ear, let him hear* what the Spirit says to the churches."

1. "He who has an ear, let him hear"

a. The Holy Spirit wants you to hear what Christ has to say

b. The one thing that all the churches have in common is that all were promised that if the "overcame" they would be rewarded for it.

c. Christ was an overcomer – He helps those who want to overcomer do so

i. He blazed the trail ahead of us

Jn.16:33(ESV) I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

d. But you don't have to listen if you don't want to

e. It will be worth it all when we see His smiling face – when He claims us as His own

Rev.21:7 " He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.