

Text: Revelation 2-3

Title: Lord's Table: Rewards for Overcomers

Truth: Those who trust in Christ are victors over sin, death, and the world, and the devil.

Date/Location: October 2, 2022 at FBC

Hymns

Hymn #256 What a Wonderful Savior

Hymn #267 The Light of the World is Jesus

Hymn #276 Jesus Paid It All

Introduction

I observed something this week when reading the book of Revelation chapters 2 and 3, and I wanted to share it with you. I probably have heard this before, or saw it before, but it really stuck out this time reading through the New Testament.

Perhaps the most well-known repeated feature of these short letters to the churches is the call for those who have an ear to hear. Another aspect of them that is well-known is the criticisms that the Lord lays at the feet of many of the churches for areas where they need to repent. And we need to heed all of those. But there is another repeated feature that is an encouragement, and here it is:

I. The Texts

Ephesus Rev 2:7 To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

Smyrna Rev 2:11 He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.

Pergamos Rev 2:17 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*.

Thyatira Rev 2:26-28 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.

Sardis Rev 3:5 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:

Philadelphia Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. 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.*

Laodicea Rev 3:21 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.

II. The Conquerors

- A. In each case, the word used to describe these people as overcomers is the verb *nikáō*, one who wins in the face of obstacles, victor, conquerer, prevailer.
- B. Christians are victors because they are stronger (Luke 11:22), but not in themselves.
- C. We prevail if we are Christians because we are in Christ, who Himself was victorious over sin and death (John 16:33, Rev 5:5). He will also be victorious over the world's rebellious rulers (Rev. 17:14).
- D. We have prevailed over the evil one (1 John 2:13-14).
- E. We have prevailed over every spirit that does not confess Christ as coming in the flesh (1 John 4:4).
- F. We prevail over the world in all its evil because we believe in Jesus and that He is the Son of God (1 John 5:4-5). We overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the testimony of the gospel (Rev. 12:11).
- G. In the future Tribulation, some will overcome the antichrist and his mark and number (Rev. 15:2).

H. To such people—believers in Christ—the Lord will grant an inheritance of the promised blessings of heaven (Rev. 21:7).

I. We are therefore told presently not to be overcome by evil, but to overcome evil with good (Rom 12:21).

Conclusion

I am encouraged by these words. I hope you are too.

MAP

Supplemental Hymn #278 At Calvary