

CHRIST'S PROMISES TO EVERY BELIEVER

Part 5 of ENCOUNTERING JESUS. Revelation 2.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. February 5, 2023.

THE WHY OF STANDING FIRM

Someone once said:

- “A diamond is merely a lump of coal that did well under pressure.”
- We may feel like a dirty lump of coal today, but when Jesus returns:

Matthew 13:43 (ESV) Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

The letters contain three kinds of motivation to stand firm under pressure:

- Stand firm because Jesus is glorious.
- Stand firm or face severe judgment for compromising.
- Stand firm and inherit eternal rewards.

WHAT DOES “CONQUER” MEAN?

The promises are only for those who “conquer.”

- It means to overcome the pressure to quit on Christ by standing firm.

Revelation 2:25-26 (ESV) Only hold fast what you have until I come. 26 The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations ...

CHRIST'S PROMISES FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN

Promise one: Eternal life in the new creation.

- The faithful Christians in Ephesus were promised:

Rev 2:7b (ESV) To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

- This is the promise of a new Garden of Eden. No more brokenness.

Revelation 21:3-4 (ESV) He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

- We'll eat from the tree of life and live with him forever:

Revelation 22:1-4 (ESV) Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

Promise two: No condemnation in the new creation.

- The faithful Christians in Smyrna were promised:

Revelation 2:10b, 11b (ESV) Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. ... 11b The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’

- The crown of life: We will live and reign with Christ.
- The second death: The Christ-rejecting world will be judged.

Revelation 20:14-15 (ESV) This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- Faithful Christians will live and will not be hurt by the second death:

Revelation 21:6-7 (ESV) “... To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers ...

Revelation 20:4 (ESV) ... They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Promise three: Admission to the new creation.

- The faithful Christians in Pergamum were promised:

2:17b (ESV) To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.

- Hidden manna: Jesus himself - John 6:32-33.
- White stone: Ancient Jewish admission ticket to banquets.
- New name: The name of Christ (Rev. 19, 22) - access to his presence.

Revelation 22:3-4 (ESV) ... 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

Promise four: Authority in the new creation.

- The faithful Christians in Thyatira were promised:

Revelation 2:26-28 (ESV) The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ... 28 And I will give him the morning star.

- We will reign with Christ. This is back to God's original plan for humanity.

Genesis 1:26 (ESV) Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion ...

- The morning star is Jesus, not the Roman emperor.

Revelation 22:16b (ESV) "I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

HOW TO COMBAT COMPLACENCY

"One compromise here, another there and soon enough the so-called Christian and the man in the world look the same" (A. W. Tozer).

CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

Review Sunday's teaching on Revelation 2-3.

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Summarize the four rewards promised to faithful Christians.

Prayerfully apply the promises of Revelation 2.

- In what situations does your faithfulness feel most at risk?
- Describe how it feels to wrestle with the pull away from Christ.
- When you falter, how have you found your way back to Jesus?
- Describe how the promises in Revelation 2 motivate you?
- How do the warnings in Revelation (2:5, 16, 21-23, 3:3) motivate you?

Pray together. Be bold.

Lord Jesus, we believe that you will return and everything will change. You will conquer your enemies by the word of your mouth and the new heavens and new earth will be revealed. We're looking forward to the day when you reign on earth and we reign with you. We're excited for a world in which there is no more sin, death, and suffering. We're ready for life and joy and abundance and wholeness with you forever. Lord, give us more grace to stand firm without compromise until you return. Help us to repent when we falter. Purify our hearts and lead us back to you. We love you, Jesus. Amen!

Preparation for Next Sunday.

- Blessed: Chapter 4.
- G. K. Beale: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utwaxgYEMHE>