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A0701 – January 7, 2007 – Rev 2, 3, 22:12 – My Reward Is With Me
- Part 3

Authority over the Nations (Revelation 2:26-28)

This reward is related to co-regency with the King of kings in the millennial kingdom.

Revelation 2:26-28 He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; ²⁷ 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; ²⁸ and I will give him the morning star.

The problem at this church was that they were tolerating a self-proclaimed prophetess named Jezebel. She was leading many believers astray and into the depths of immorality. Christ says He was personally going to clean up this mess by sending them sickness and even a pestilence to stomp out the deadly infection. However, there were some believers who did not hold to her teachings. Christ encourages them to hold fast to what they have until Christ comes (v 24). Then he announces that “He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end” will be rewarded. Therefore, the key for receiving this reward is persevering in Christ’s deeds until the end.

The reward is co-reigning with Christ in the millennial kingdom. The OT quotation comes from Ps 2 which is a millennial kingdom Psalm. It is interesting to note that Christ says he received authority from His Father. The reason He received this authority is because He also overcame and kept His Father’s deeds until the end. Again, the emphasis is on obedience. The

degree of authority in the kingdom will be determined by the degree of faithfulness each of us exhibits with the spiritual assets we have received (Luke 19:11-27).

The Morning Star

Possession of the morning star is also a reward for persevering to the end in Christ's deeds.

Revelation 2:26-28 He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end...I will give him the morning star.

It is difficult to understand precisely what this reward entails. The morning star is defined for us in Revelation 22:16,

Revelation 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

Thus, Jesus is "the morning star". What does it mean that Christ will give Himself to the overcomer? The Greek word "give" can mean "favor" or "privilege". Perhaps what is being referred to is greater privileges enjoyed by serving in close proximity to the Lamb of God in the kingdom and the new Jerusalem.

White Garments (Revelation 3:5)

This reward is related to clothing, new garments that will be worn by the overcomers.

Revelation 3:5 'He who overcomes will 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.

The problem at this church was that they had some good deeds but they were not completed. Christ had more for them to do but they were fizzling out. This church had very little left which they could strengthen. Christ encouraged them to remember what they had received and heard, keep it and

repent. Nevertheless, there were a few there who had not soiled their garments. One soils his garments by walking in sin, walking in carnality. One washes his garments by confession of sin and doing of good deeds. This select few would walk with Him in white because they were worthy.

The reward for overcoming these shortfalls is three-fold. First, they will “be clothed in white garments”. These “white garments” are a reward for experiential righteousness and not positional righteousness. Verse 4 says “they are worthy”. They are the ones who wash their robes during their Christian experience by confession of known sin and doing of good deeds. As a result they will be rewarded with “white garments”. Probably the garments will have different degrees of brightness depending on the varying degrees of good deeds done in the body.

Not Erase His Reputation from Book of Life (Revelation 3:5)

Probably this should be translated “I will not erase his reputation from the book of life” since this same word is used in verse 1 clearly of their reputation. Since the overcomers reputation will be eternally memorialized on a white stone this is probably what it refers too. All names of believers will be in the book of life but only the reputations of the overcomer will be eternally memorialized in the book.

Confession of Reputation Before Father and Angels (Revelation 3:5)

Probably this should be translated “I will confess his reputation before My Father and before His angels”. Frequently we find Scriptures which say “Everyone who confesses Me before men I will confess him before My Father in heaven. If you deny Me before men I will deny you before My Father” (e.g. Matthew 10:32-33; 2 Timothy 2:12). These warnings fall within discipleship contexts. They have nothing to do with whether one was a genuine believer or not but whether one was a committed disciple or not. The NT encourages those who have believed in Christ to become His committed disciples (e.g. John 8:30-32).

There are three kinds of disciples in the NT. First, the curious disciple. The curious disciple is a student or learner who is curious about the teachings of Christ but has yet to believe in Christ. Second, the convinced disciple. The

convinced disciple is convinced of the gospel and has believed in Christ. However, he is not ready to dedicate his body and mind to the Lord and follow the Scriptures wherever they lead. Third, the committed disciple is the believer who has dedicated his body and mind to the Lord and is willing to follow the Scriptures wherever they lead. He is willing to identify with the rejection of the Messiah, be rejected by his wife and family and even be martyred. A believer who is a committed disciple is the one whom Christ says He will confess before His Father.

To have one's reputation confessed before the Father and His angels is something like the verbal proclamation in heaven "Well done good and faithful servant" (Luke 19:17). All believers will be in heaven but only some will receive this special confession of their reputation before the Father and His angels. The angels are present because they minister to those who will inherit salvation (Hebrews 1:14). Whether we realize it or not angels play a vital role in our lives. It will be a day of joy for the angels when they see that their hard work on behalf of the Father has paid off and not been in vain.

A Pillar in the Temple of My God (Revelation 3:12)

Christ had nothing condemnatory to say about this church but He did say, "hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown". This is a command to persevere to the end of one's life. Apparently failure to persevere can result in loss of rewards. No doubt Paul said that one could "suffer loss" at the judgment seat of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:15) and Jesus said that even what an unfaithful servant has will be taken from him (Luke 19:26). These kinds of statements indicate that even though we may have done things that merited reward early in our Christian experience, if we do not persevere to the end of our lives we can lose that reward. However, an entire bundle of rewards are promised for those who do persevere in verse 12,

Revelation 3:12 '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 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 My new name.

To be made a pillar in the temple of My God probably refers to being a bond-servant who carries out priestly service in the new Jerusalem. These bond-servants are mentioned in Revelation 22:3-5.

Revelation 22:3-4 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; ⁴ they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads.

In one sense God and the Lamb are the city's temple (Revelation 21:22) but in another sense the city itself is also a temple. The believer who perseveres to the end will be a pillar in this city as he serves in close proximity to the lamb

The Name of God (Revelation 3:12)

Having Christ write the name of God upon the overcomer is another reward for persevering to the end of one's life in the faith. The name of God that is stamped on the overcomer is probably the name YHWH, God's everlasting memorial name (Exodus 3:14-15). To have one's name written on you denotes ownership. The overcomer will be God's prized possession because he is a supreme example of what the grace of God can accomplish in a believer's life.

The Name of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 3:12)

Having Christ write the name of the new Jerusalem upon the overcomer is another reward for persevering to the end of one's life in the faith. This probably denotes citizenship. All who overcome will have citizenship and ownership in the new Jerusalem. They will not merely visit the city, they will have an inheritance in the city.

The New Name of Christ (Revelation 3:12; 22:4)

Having Christ write the name of His new name upon the overcomer is another reward for persevering to the end of one's life in the faith. This denotes that the overcomer will be Christ's prized possession in the new Jerusalem.

Sit on Christ's Throne (Revelation 3:21)

This is a reward of co-regency with the King of kings during the Millennial Kingdom and perhaps beyond. Christ's throne is the Davidic Throne which is an eternal throne. Christ will sit on this throne in the Millennial Kingdom and reign from sea to sea.

Revelation 3:21 '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.

This verse is important because it teaches that the way we must overcome is the same way Christ overcame. Since Christ overcame the world by a life of obedience to His Father's will (John 16:33) then we must also overcome by a life of obedience to our Father's will.

The problem at this church was lukewarmness. They were neither hot nor cold for Christ. This is a believer who's riding the fence. He's not sold out for the world or Christ. He's basically going through the motions. Again, they need to buy from Christ white garments since they are so lacking in good deeds at this time they are naked. Christ loves them and therefore will discipline them. To avoid this discipline they need to be zealous, red hot for Christ, and repent, have a change of mind about their fence-riding escapades with one foot in the world and one foot in the word. Christ extends a generous offer of intimate fellowship if they will only come and sup with Him. The reward for overcoming by obedience to Christ's commands is co-regency with Him in the Kingdom.

Inherit the New Jerusalem

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

This refers to an experiential inheritance that is rewarded for good deeds (Colossians 3:23-25). The genuine believer may or may not inherit salvation (Hebrews 1:14), he may or may not inherit eternal life (Matthew 19:29), he may or may not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21) and here, the believer who overcomes will inherit the new Jerusalem. The word inherit means "to acquire, obtain, possess" and indicates ownership in the new

Jerusalem. They will not only be in the new heaven and earth but will have permanent residence in the new Jerusalem.

Intimate Father-Son Relationship

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

The phrase “I will be his God and he will be My son” comes directly out of the OT where God told David “I will be his God and he will be My son” with reference to Solomon (2 Samuel 7:14). Surely God was the God of all believers in the OT but just as God enjoyed a more intimate Father-son relationship with Solomon so believers who overcome will enjoy a more intimate Father-son relationship in the new Jerusalem. This same truth is taught in two other NT passages. First, in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:9 Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God”. Verse 12 indicating this is a rewards passage. Being a son of God in this passage is a reward for being a peacemaker. Some believers are peacemakers and some are not. Those who are will be rewarded with an intimate Father-son relationship like Solomon enjoyed in the OT. We might note that some passages in Scripture contrast a child of God with a son of God. A child of God is sometimes portrayed as an immature believer while a son of God is portrayed as a mature believer. So, while all believers are children of God not all develop experientially into sons of God. Those who do will be rewarded with intimate sonship. Another passage which indicates that being a son of God is a reward is Romans 8:17. In this passage it says “All who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God” and verse 19 says “the creation eagerly awaits the revealing of the sons of God”. This is not waiting to see who is a believer or not but waiting to see which believers submitted to the leading of the Spirit of God. Those who are will be rewarded with this intimate Father-son relationship in the new Jerusalem.

See His Face (Revelation 22:4)

Revelation 22:4 they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads.

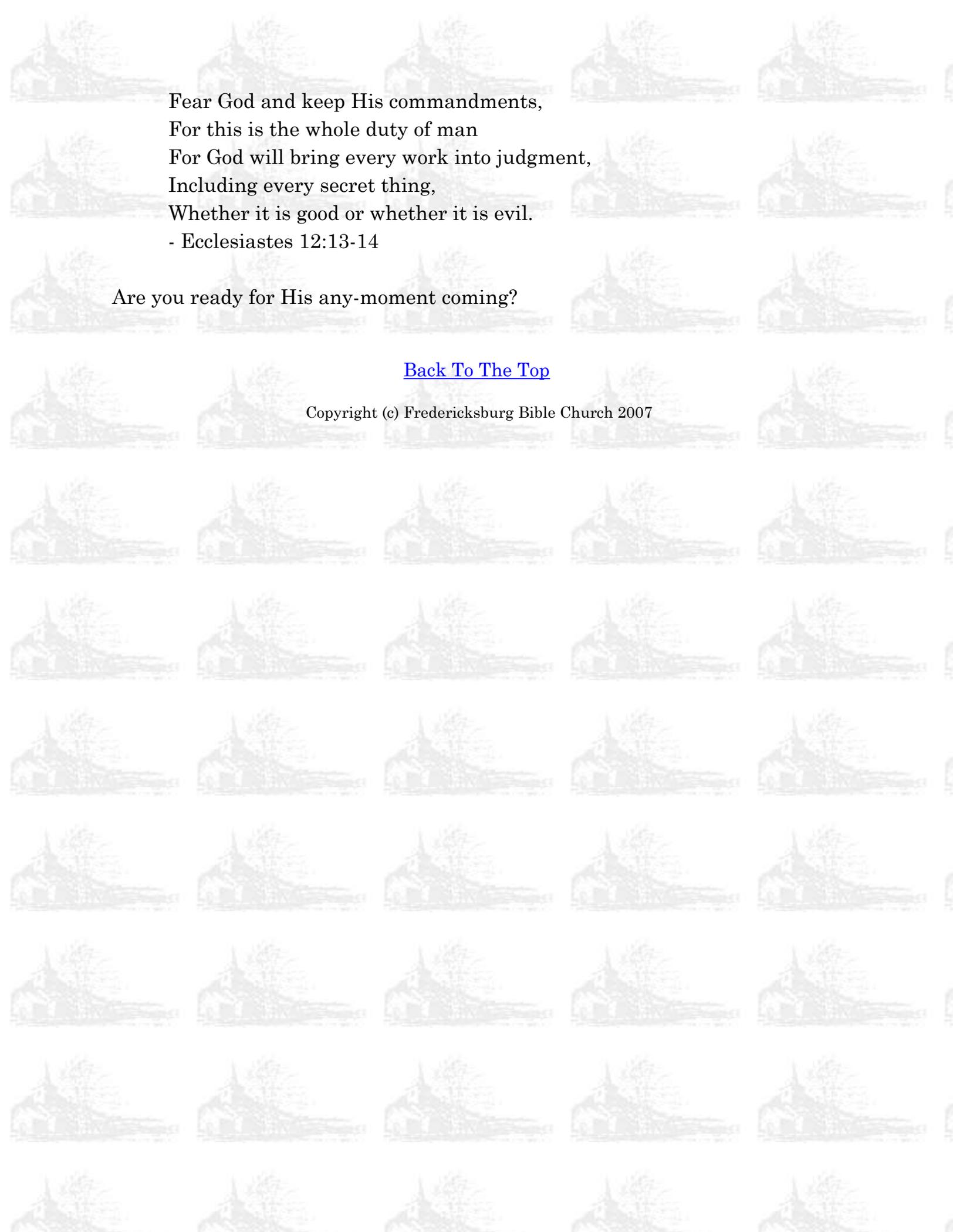
The bond-servants of God will see His face, that is, they will have face to face personal acquaintance and will converse with the Lamb of God as they serve Him in the new Jerusalem (Spiros Zodhiates). His name on their foreheads was already noted as a reward for the overcomer in Revelation 3:12. This name, of course, is His new name.

The Means of Faithful Obedience

As you can see there are many and varied rewards that will heighten the believer's enjoyment of his eternal life in the Millennium and the new heaven and earth. Yet, rewards are not guaranteed by virtue of faith alone in Christ alone. Some genuine believer's will "suffer loss" at the judgment seat of Christ and enter the kingdom and new heaven and earth without any rewards. John says they will "shrink away in shame at His coming". In all this we have to remember that God has given each believer spiritual assets which He expects us to use now for His glory then. To hide our lamp under a bushel, so to speak, is to act wickedly and lazily with the abundant spiritual assets He has graciously given us. Nevertheless, all will have a full cup of joy in the new heaven and earth. No one will be lacking for joy only there will be different degrees of joy experienced.

Also we have to remember that the things that are rewardable are those things which are accomplished by faithful obedience to His commandments while submitting to the leadership of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He is constantly leading us but we can quench His leading in our lives. While justification is solely an operation of God experiential sanctification occurs by the cooperation of God and man. On one hand we are to work out our own salvation (Philippians 2:12; also James 4:8a). On the other, God is at work in us both to will and to do (Philippians 2:13; also James 4:8a). The explanation of these statements is that it is by grace alone. God has graciously given all believers the ability to walk either by faith or by sight, to draw near to Him or not. He is always willing but we are not. The choice is up to you. You can choose to befriend the world or become the "friend of God". Those who befriend the world will suffer loss at the judgment seat of Christ and those who become the friend of God will reap a wealth and diversity of rewards which can then be used to glorify and serve the everlasting King!

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter,



Fear God and keep His commandments,
For this is the whole duty of man
For God will bring every work into judgment,
Including every secret thing,
Whether it is good or whether it is evil.
- Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Are you ready for His any-moment coming?

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