

## TO HIM WHO OVERCOMES - Rev 2-3

042521P

### INTRODUCTION

1. The 7 letters are foundational to entire epistle [a letter] - apocalyptic genre.
  - i. Rv 1:4 & 22:21 benediction & conclusion: traits of epistle
  - ii. Chpts 4-22 concern us as does Romans or the Gospels: entire Scripture
02. Theme of "overcomer" gives connection w/ rest of Revelation.

### 1st: The Overcomer Overcomes as a Churchman

1. Script/HS communicates to each of us as individuals - Prv 9:12
2. Yet Script is written *to the church* - Rv 1:11a; admonishing each individual: *to him* [singular] *who overcomes*. 1C 12:27; Eph 4:15-16
- 03. Each letter in Rv 2-3 is *to the church* & each concludes w/ summons *to him who overcomes* & has an ear to hear what the HS is saying to the churches. I participate in the church's worship & receive the witness of the church & bear witness as part of the church - Hb 12:1.

### 2nd: The Promises Given to the Overcomer

1. Rv 2:7 -> *tree of life* in Rv 22:2
2. Rv 2:11 -> Rv 21:7-8 -> *lake of fire* = 2nd death
3. Rv 2:17; 3:12 -> Rv 21 city of gem stones: new Jeru w/ new name Rv 22:4
4. Rv 2:26-28 & 3:21 -> 22:5 & *they will reign forever & ever*
5. Rv 3:5 -> *whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life* [Rv 21:27]
6. Rv 21:7 = hope of sonship spans redemptive history - Rv 1:5-6; 1C 2:9
7. Community of perfect love - the 7 churches defects & all threats eradicated: false prophets; false Jews; Satan's realm; spiritually dead; dim light; immorality & lies; persecution - all fully & finally conquered: overcome.

### 3rd: How Does an Overcomer Overcome?

1. Rv 12:11 - living union w/ crucified-reigning Lamb: love Jesus - disciples
2. Rv 15:2 *victorious* = pres act ptc - "overcoming" - worshipers overcome.
3. Overcomer is a *witness* ["*martus*" - martyr] - Rv 2:12; Rv 12:11
  - i. Rv 3:21 *as I overcame* -> *throne* = Rv 5:5-6
  - ii. Reality of discipleship; baptism - union w/ Jesus in HIS death & life
  - iii. Overcoming has more to do w/ how we live than how we die - live by faith - persevere up to & thru death into resurrection glory.

4. Rv 2:26 *and* - "even, that is". Overcomers persevere in faith & good works
  - i. 1Jn 5:4-5 regenerated believer overcomes the world by faith in Jesus
5. The overcomer heeds Jesus' admonitions *to the churches* as a churchman.
  - i. Overcomers exhort others in churches to overcome. "Overcome" in Greek sounds similar to *Nicolaitans* - enticement to compromise.
  - ii. Rv 17:14 - Lamb overcomes beast w/ *the called & chosen & faithful*. Overcomers work together so that the lamp of church shines w/o warrant for rebuke - like Smyrna [Rv 2:8-11].

### 4th: An Overcomer Overcomes As S/He is Overcome

1. An overcoming church will draw fire from enemy, not be indistinguishable from surrounding cultural immorality & idolatry - Jms 4:4. Remember Lot.
2. A "Great Tribulation" - intensified persecution preceding Christ's return
  - i. Rv 11:7 the 2 witnesses are overcome - near end of church-age.
  - ii. Rv 13:7 Beast's victory over the saints - v10b; v9.
  - iii. Dan 7:21-22 obtain kingdom in the way of Lamb - Dan 7:13; Rv 5
3. Kingdom overcoming often appears like earthly defeat: cruciform.
- 04. *To Him who loves us* - Rv 1:5-6. Rm 8:35-39
  - i. Rm 8:16-18 - sons/heirs will *suffer w/ Him so that we may also be glorified w/ Him*. Suffering is real, but not to be compared w/ glory
  - ii. v35 - an array of difficulties that cannot sever us from Christ's love
  - iii. v36 - cites Ps 44:22 - bewilderment - being faithful yet suffering defeat
  - iv. v37 - experience of suffering for Christ is the experience of those who are *more than conquerors* thru Christ's love. v38-39 array of enemies.
5. We must overcome as Christ's witnesses.
6. Rv 17:14 as we are faithful to Christ, He overcomes all enemies - Rv 21:7