

NO SENSE IN GRIEVING OVER WHAT'S ALREADY OCCURRED.

WE CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST!

LET'S JUST MOVE ON TO PERFECTION

To the Seven Churches

Philadelphia Hold Sound Doctrine

*A Rewards are for the faithful:

1. Incentives:

Revelation 2:7-11 (RSV)

7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These things says He who is holy He who is true, He who has the key of David: He who opens and no one shall shut, and who shuts and no one opens."

8 "I know your works: See I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it: for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name."

9 "Whoever I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but have lied: I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you."

10 "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who shall dwell on the earth."

11 Behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed Fast who you have that no one may take your crown.

when the Lord returns, it is going to happen suddenly, and **unavoidably**.

Reward ethics

the flow

the flow will happen

present -- The verb tense where the writer perhaps an action, to produce a state of being with no assumption of the action's completion.

active -- The grammatical voice that implies that the subject is performing the initial action or is in the state described by the verb.

imperative -- The mood that normally expresses a command, intention, exhortation, or polite request. This **imperative mood** is therefore not an expression of reality but possibility and volition.

The **present, active, imperative** very deliberately emphasizes this as something that should be an ongoing character trait of life, a standard operating procedure.

It's to become part of one's character, something that you no longer think about, it becomes a spontaneous response where it's implemented on a consistent basis.

This word **BLISS** is used a number of times in the book of Revelation, and that gives us an idea of what the measure is here.

Revelation 2:26-28 (RSV)

26 "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden."

28 But **BLISS** who you have. All I want.

The biblical concept of teaching was no distinction between teaching and practice. For there is a connection here between holding to sound accurate doctrine, and practice.

So what do they have in the context?

They have correct doctrine, really they have not compromised it with the culture around them.

Revelation 2:14-16 (RSV)

14 "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan dwells: is. And you **BLISS** who you have."

15 "But I have a few things against you, because you have not kept the doctrine of Balak, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality."

the body of truth, doctrine, teaching and applications that is part of Christianity

this reinforces the same idea, and it has to do with holding to a true doctrine of the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

BLISS is used in numerous contexts to indicate holding on to a your right doctrine, and holding fast to your spiritual life and spiritual growth and **not** being distracted.

So this isn't simply abstract doctrine, it is the application of that doctrine in life.

It is the idea that whatever you have done as you have grown and as you have matured, don't let anything take you away from it.

11 Behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed Fast who you have that no one may take your crown.

personal issues

The scriptures talk about different kinds of rewards and different kinds of future privileges and blessings.

These seven letters to the seven churches each have a passage that has a promise to those who overcome.

There are special privileges outlined in each of these letters related to believers who are overcomers, in other words who are successful victorious believers.

There are 3 crowns mentioned in Scripture. These are special awards given to believers who persevere or overcome.

1st, the crown of righteousness.

This is described and attributed specifically to the believers who attain to spiritual maturity. Every believer has an opportunity to receive the crown of righteousness, according to

1 Timothy 4:8 (RSV)

8 "For though the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

8 Finally, there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

For those who humble themselves to receive sound doctrine

2nd, the crown of life.

A special capacity above and beyond others in the future kingdom. It goes to those who persevere to spiritual maturity, to persevere in trial.

James 1:12 (RSV)

12 "Blessed is the man who endures temptation: for when he has been approved, he will receive **the crown of life**, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."

Revelation 2:10 (RSV)

10 "Do not be afraid of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. **He will die**, and will give you **the crown of life**."

3rd, the crown of glory.

to pastors and missionaries who are faithful in the communication of the precise Word of God, not the word of religious man.

1 Peter 5:4 (RSV)

4 "And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive **the crown of glory**, that they who love you."

11 Behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed Fast who you have that no one may take your crown.

No one can steal your crown, this is an idiom indicating that there are circumstances, people, situations in life that can distract us from the goal.

He is speaking idiomatically, and saying not to let anything interfere in our pursuit of spiritual growth and maturity.

The principle here is that we should consistently live today in light of eternity. That is our motivation.

That we have come to.

12 He who **OVERCOMES** 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 name.

After reading **OVERCOMES** etc. - the words "OBTAIN A VICTORY, WIN 39.57" images, **OVERCOMES**, overcome, prevail, triumph, be victorious

The word there for overcomer is the Greek verb **NIKAO** (nikao), based on the noun **NIKH** (nikh) for the goddess of victory, and it means to be victorious, to prevail, to win in the face of obstacles.

It's the victorious believer who at the judgment seat of Christ who has measurable gold, silver and precious stones, as opposed to having all of his work burned up as wood, hay, and straw.

There is clearly a distinction in the Bible between two types of believers: those who are carnal and fleshly and who never advance spiritually, and therefore have no future ruling or reigning responsibilities with the Lord, and

those who do, those who are victorious in the Christian life, who do grow and mature and have a measurable works.

Our destiny, according to Revelation 21 and other passages, is to be priests and rulers in the Millennial Kingdom.

Where do priests function?

in the temple.

So in the millennial Kingdom there are going to be those who have overcome in this age, who have special privilege and place and responsibility and service during that period and then on into eternity.

And he will not be able to lose it.

12 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches?"

I Am Covered Over

I AM COVERED OVER WITH THE ROSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT JESUS GIVES TO ME, GIVES TO ME,

I AM COVERED OVER WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS AND HE LIVES IN ME, LIVES IN ME,

WHAT A JOY IT IS TO KNOW MY HEAVENLY FATHER LOVES ME SO, HE GIVES TO ME, MY JESUS,

WHEN HE LOOKS AT ME HE SEES NOT WHAT I USED TO BE, BUT HE SEES JESUS, JESUS

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart.
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

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Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us"

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