

New Sermon Series, *Strengthening Faith* (Revelation)

7/30/23 “Overcome,” Rev. 1-3, MEV (will read ch. 1)

INTRODUCTION: overcoat with hole in pocket

What must soon take place; blessed if read & obey; time is near; 7 blessings in Rev.; practical, moral instructions; call to action

7 golden candlesticks = churches (representing all); 7 stars = angel/pastor of each

2-edged sword = Word of God (grace & forgiveness or judgment)

Summary: 2 churches commended, 5 warned, all exhorted

MAIN IDEA: Live right with God. How? Here are 3 things to do.

I. First, remember that God knows all about us (2:2)

I know your works; **Know:** to see; the absolute knowledge of God

Works: what a man is and how he acts (*Zodhiates*)

A. He sees our good & commends us

Labor, patience, testing leaders, endurance, bearing with tribulation, faithfulness to Jesus' name, love, service, faith

B. He sees our evil & will not overlook it

Lack of love (Ephesus), **permitting & following false teaching/idolatry/sexual immorality** (Pergamum & Thyatira), **living for applause of people** (Sardis), **lukewarmness** (Laodicea)

1. we justify selves, excuse, compare with others

2. He judges by holiness, justifies by Jesus' blood
(our repentance)

NOTE: Deceiver wants us to believe we can hide sin or justify it.

Lesson: Our good does not compensate for our sin.

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, heed God's warnings (2:4)

I have this against you **Against:** down on, intense *opposition to*

- Because Jesus saves us but we turn away from Him
- Because the Holy Spirit helps us but we ignore Him
- Because we are made clean but return to filth
- Because He offers Himself but we prefer our sin

A. He warns us so we will repent

B. He will come against us if we will not repent

Remove candlestick (Eph.), war against (Pergamum), come like a thief to blot name out of Book of Life (Sardis), spit out (Laodicea)

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Third, overcome to be with Jesus

To him who overcomes/He who overcomes.... Hear what the Spirit says to the churches... God encourages all 7 to overcome

Overcome: subdue, conquer, get the victory, prevail

Hear: to obey

A. by paying attention to what the Spirit says to the churches

B. by rejecting our own personal sins, societal pressures,
false teaching/prophecy

C. by holding firm in obedience

D. by repenting when we fall

E. by continuing in faith in Jesus through it all

ILLUSTRATION:

Overarching lessons...

- Even those who do well must overcome, remain faithful.
- Good works never outweigh sin.
- Obeying God gives us victory.

CONCLUSION:

Rev. 3:19-22, MEV: ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline. Therefore be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ To him who overcomes will I grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (*to Laodicea*)

ALTAR: Guilty? Repent? Salvation? Recommit? Strength to overcome?