

Philippians Series

Lesson #015

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Philippians

Overcomer Rewards

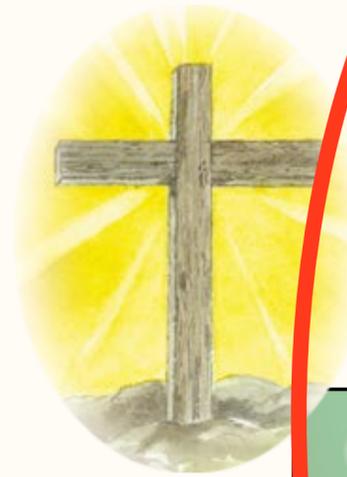
Philippians 1:6; Revelation 2–3



**What the Bible Teaches
About**

the “Day of Christ”





RAPTURE
OF THE CHURCH



Church
Age

Tribulation

Millennial
Kingdom

Eternal
State

Second Resurrection
(unsaved)

BEMA
Judgment
Seat of
Christ

GREAT
WHITE
THRONE

Unsaved Dead

Revelation 3:21, “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

Two Questions:

- 1. Why isn't 1 John 5:5 talking about the content of the gospel in light of John 20:31?**
- 2. Is 1 Cor. 9:24–27 talking about overcomers even though the word isn't used?**

What the Bible Teaches About

the “Overcomer” in Revelation





***Ephesus:
First and
Greatest
Metropolis
of Asia***



Black Sea

Ister River

THRACIA

BITHYNIA and PONTUS

ASIA

Pergamum

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Smyrna

Lodicea

Patmos

LYCIA

PAMPHAGIA

CILICIA

MESOPOTAMIA

SYRIA

Euphrates

ACHINA

CRETE

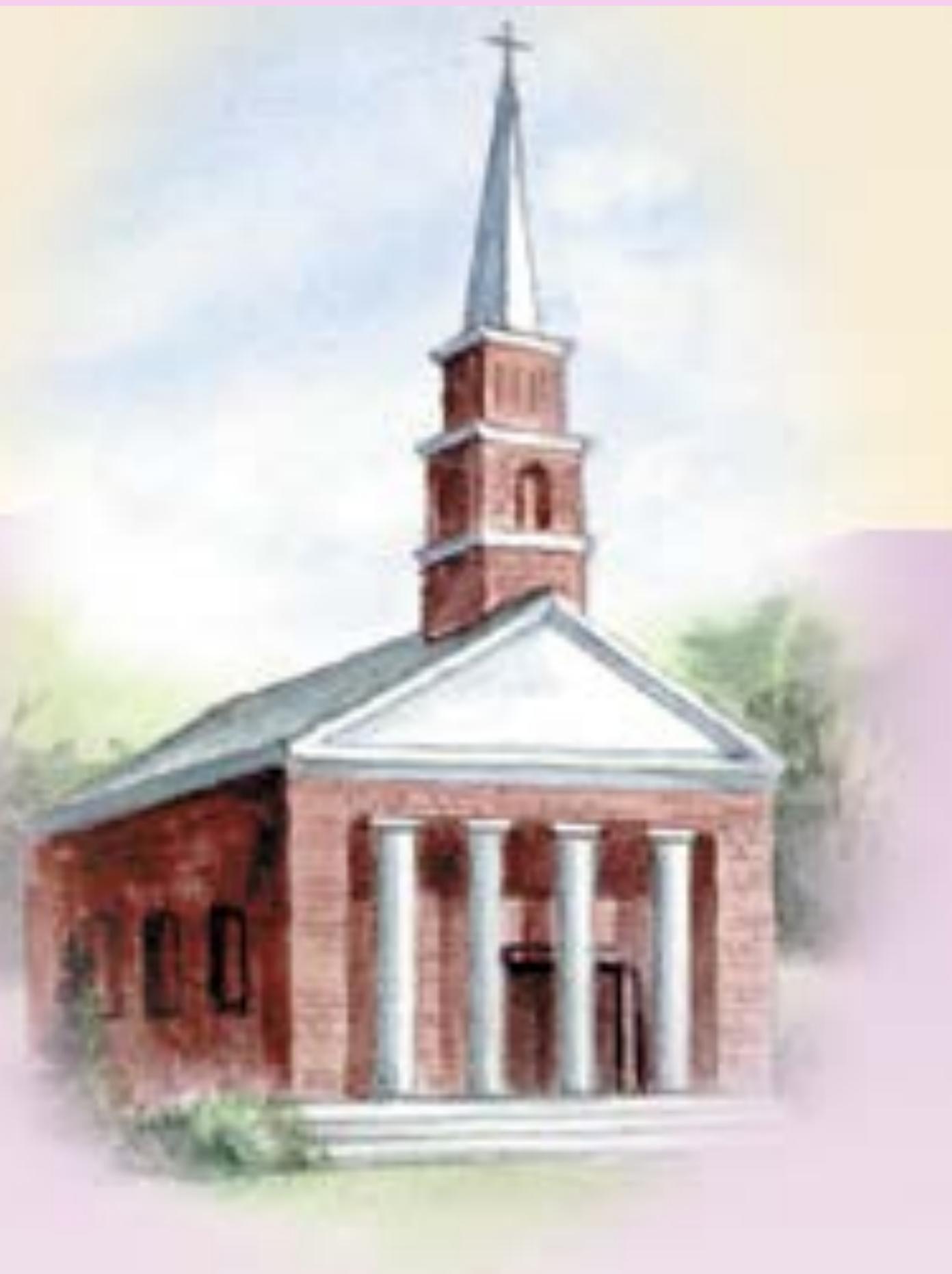
CYPRUS

Aegean Sea

ATHENS

MACEDONIA

ARMENIA



Revelation 2–3

- 1. Commission: an address opens each letter***
- 2. Character: a citation, to specific attributes of Christ***
- 3. Commendation: a praise for spiritual advance***
- 4. Condemnation: a warning about a spiritual flaw in the congregation***
- 5. Correction: a prescription to recovery***
- 6. Call: a command to listen and apply***
- 7. Challenge: a personal promise of reward***

Revelation 2:7, “ ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the overcomer I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.’ ”

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νικάω *nikaō* pres act articular part masc sing dat

“victors, winners, conquerors, overcomers.”

Cognate to the noun, *nikh*, *nike*, “victory, success.”

***Nikao* “to overpower, to gain victory, to win.”**

1. Used in Genesis to describe a tree in the Garden of Eden.

Gen. 2:9, “And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

Gen. 3:22, “Then the LORD God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever’ ”—

Gen. 3:24, “So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.”

2. It is used in several verses in Proverbs:

Prov. 3:18, “She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who retain her.”

Prov. 11:30, “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.”

Prov. 13:12, “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.”

Prov. 15:4, “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.”

3. Three uses in Revelation are instructive. We will begin with the last first.

Rev. 22:2, “In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

Another contrast between works and a free gift is found in the last chapter of Revelation.

Rev. 22:14, “Blessed are those who do His commandments [MajT, TR] “wash their robes [CrT],” that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”

Rev. 22:17, “And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

John 14:15, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

John 14:21, “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

John 15:10, “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”

1 John 2:3, “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

1 John 2:4, “He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”

1 John 3:22, “And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

1 John 3:23, “And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

1 John 3:24, “Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.”

1 John 4:21, “And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.”

1 John 5:2, “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.”

1 John 5:3, “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

Salvation is free.

Rev. 22:17, “And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

Rev. 22:12, “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”

Salvation is free, rewards are earned.

Rev. 21:6, “And He said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.’ ”

Col. 3:24, “knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”

In Rev. 22:14 and Rev. 2:7, the tree of life is conditioned upon something.

Rev. 22:14, “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”

Rev. 2:7, “ ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.’ ”

Rev. 21:7, “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.”

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“I will be his God and he shall be My son.”

A phrase of special honor, not a description of those simply regenerated.

2 Sam. 7:14 (Davidic Covenant), “I will be a Father to him and he will be a son to me.”

Acts 13:33, “God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: ‘*You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.*’ ”

“Some have said that eating from the tree of life was the equivalent of receiving eternal life, but this is most evidently a false interpretation. Eternal life is the prerequisite for membership in the true Church. Eating of the tree of life is a reward that shall be given to the overcomer *in addition* to his salvation. ... He receives over and above his entrance into eternal life, a place in the Heavens in the midst of the paradise of God.” [italics added]

~Donald Grey Barnhouse, *Revelation*, 43

To the Church of Smyrna



Revelation 2:7, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the overcomer I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”

Revelation 2:10, “Do not fear any 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. **Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”**

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γίνομαι *gínomai*:

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“to come into a certain state or possess certain characteristics, to be, prove to be, turn out to be.”

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πιστός *pistós*;

**“dependable, consistent,
remaining loyal” the
consistent growth in the
believer’s life.**

James 1:12, “Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved [*dokimos*], he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

testing, “evaluation” *dokomion*, James 1:3

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test, “evaluation” *dokimos*, James 1:12

test (v), “evaluate” *dokimazo*, 1 Cor. 3:13, “each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.”

1 John 3:14, “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

1 John 3:15, “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”

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Aor Act Imp, 3s,

“to listen with application.”

The aorist imperative emphasizes immediate application.

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ὁ νικῶν νικάω *nikaō*

pres act part

articular masc sing

nom to conquer;

the victor, the

overcomer

To understand this we have to understand three things:

- 1. The Meaning of the Second Death**
- 2. The Doctrine of Inheritance**
- 3. Cleansing of Sin**

The second death is the perpetuation of spiritual death into eternity—Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 20:12–15. It refers to the final judgement of the unbeliever in which the unbeliever is cast into the Lake of Fire forever. So it follows the general concept of separation, but it is the eternal Lake of Fire.

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ἀδικέω *adikéō*;

Aor Pass Subj, 3s

Used with a double negative.

“Damaged or suffering loss in some way.”

Rev. 20:14, “Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”

Rev. 20:6, “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

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μέρος *méros*; technical term for a share or portion of an inheritance

Luke 15:12, “The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me of the estate that falls to me.’ So he divided his wealth between them.”

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Rev. 21:7, “ ‘He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Rev. 21:8, “ ‘But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part (μέρος *méros*) in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.’ ”

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John 13:8, “Peter said to Him, ‘You shall never wash my feet!’ Jesus answered him, ‘If I do not wash you, you have no part (μέρος *méros*) with Me.’ ”