

BIBLE CLASS REVELATION STUDY. THYATIRA 2. 24-29 "HOLD Fast"

²⁴ But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and who have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. ²⁵ But that which you have *already* hold fast till I come. ²⁶ And he that overcomes, and keeps my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: ²⁷ And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. ²⁸ And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the Ecclesias. (Rev 2:24-29)

In our last Revelation study we were reminded how Jesus presented himself as "the first and the Last". He is the First, that is Yahweh - the Father in eternal manifestation. He also the "Last" as he taught his disciples, "If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me. (Joh 12:32) This is seen in progress. Having sacrificed himself, God raised him from the dead and gave him power and authority over this world and in the world that is to come. To participate in this requires, men and women to believe the gospel, and being convicted by it they are united to the Lord Jesus by their submission to him in all things. During the remainder of their lives, they are to give witness unto him, in following his precepts and imparting the knowledge of the Gospel to all who would receive it. The Smyrneans were promised a crown of life for faithfulness unto death.

Accepting and keeping the principles of the Gospel makes them possessors of the Kingdom of God and therefore they are rich, for as the Apostle Paul states "All things are theirs (1 Corinthians 3:12)"

It must not be forgotten that in the apostolic scheme of things, "He is a Jew who is one inwardly, even though our origin was derived from gentiles according to the flesh who were strangers from the covenants of promise and aliens from the commonwealth of Israel Ephes.2:12.

Jesus forewarned the Smyranean brothers and sisters that they would suffer and the adversary would cast some of them into prison. The apostle Peter also instructed the believers of similar troubles that awaited them for the name of Christ. ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant;

because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour:⁹ Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.¹⁰ But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*. To him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (1Pe 5:8-11)

Do you think that the scripture says in vain, The spirit that dwells in us lusts to envy? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Wherefore he says, God resists the proud, but gives grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double minded.⁹ Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. Speak no evil one of another, brothers. He that speaks evil of *his* brother, and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law, and judges the law: but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge. There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art you that judges another? (James 4:5-12)

So Jesus encourages the believers, “He that overcomes shall not be hurt of the second death. The second death is that repetition of the death that will occur at the appearance of Christ in the case of those that rise from the dead to experience the shame and punishment of divine rejection. This will be more dreadful than the occurrence of the first death as divine rejection will be publicly proclaimed.

The promise of exemption from it, from him who has the power to impose it is “great and precious Promise”. It is a promise like all other promises to those who overcome. That is to those who “overcome” or get the upper hand in the conflict created by those who receive and practice the “Truth” in their lives. It involves difficulties both within and without but what overcomes the conflict is our Faith as the apostle John points out, “For whatsoever is born of

God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world, *even* our faith. Who is he that overcomes the world, but he that believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (1Jo 5:4-5") Paul tells us that "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17) So the man (or woman) who overcomes is the person in whom the word of God dwells richly as a result of constant reading and study of the Scriptures. A full conviction of the things written in the Bible is Faith and faith gives the power to "deny ungodliness and worldly lusts to live soberly, righteously and holy in this present world, and such as theses will not be hurt of the second death.

R.R. amended DHH