

PERSEVERANCE

In Revelation 2, Jesus dictates letters to the seven churches that were scattered throughout the Roman province of Asia. One of the things he tells all of them in one way or another is of their need to persevere. Endurance—making one's way through trials in order to emerge victorious – is one of the main tenets of Christianity. Apparently there were many who were not persevering, who were simply wearing down and giving up—finding the path of least resistance. Jesus tells those he is inspiring the apostle John to write that endurance is essential for one to be well pleasing to God.

To the church in Ephesus, Jesus says:

“I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance....you have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.”

To Thyatira , He writes:

“I know your deeds, your love and your faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.”

Jesus concludes each of the letters with the same statement: “To him who overcomes, I will give...”

What will he give? What will we receive if we “overcome,” “persevere,” “endure?”

1. We will be given “the right to eat from the tree of life.”
2. We “will not be hurt at all by the second death.”
3. We will receive “hidden manna” and a “white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.”
4. We will receive “authority over the nations” and “the morning star.”
5. We will be “dressed in white.”
6. We will be considered “a pillar in the temple” of God.
7. We will be given “the right to sit” with Jesus on his throne.”

Jesus tells the church in Smyrna to be faithful, even to the point of death, and that they would receive the “crown of life.” He tells the church at Philadelphia to “Hold on to what you have so that no one will take your crown.”

Rewards are awaiting those who endure, persevere, overcome. The Hebrew writer, in chapter 12, verses 1-13 says that we are to “run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” We are to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who “endured ..opposition from sinful

men.” “We are to endure hardship as discipline.” We are to “strengthen our feeble arms and weak knees.” We are in a fight to the finish!

Perseverance is a characteristic we are to have. (Romans 5:3-4, James 1:3-4, 2 Peter 1:6)
Paul says in Galatians 6:9:

“ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Let’s all strive to do the will of God enthusiastically in order to be considered one of those who are “faithful to the point of death.” Let our perseverance in the face of adversity seal our reward.