“*I am He who searches hearts & minds and I will repay each of you according to your deeds*,” Revelation 2:23

**REWARDS (week 3): INTIMACY WITH JESUS**

The word “hear” is mentioned 10x in the book of Revelation; 8x between chapters 1-3.

Revelation 1:3, “Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who **hear** it and **take to heart** what is written in it, because the time is near…”

* To hear: To attend to; To hearken; To lean into; To consider what is being said; To perceive because there is more than meets the eye
* Take to heart: To keep; attend to carefully (with weight); responding in faith to what is said

**The Kingdom of God is a “hearing” Kingdom. We are to set ourselves before the Voice of God.**

1. Review
2. 20 rewards are promised in Revelation 2 & 3 – these are very important part of our destiny…we need to be familiar with them. JESUS speaks them to us.
3. Most of these rewards will be received by all believers in an introductory way
4. Jesus calls us to live in such a way to receive heavenly rewards
5. These rewards are given according to our deeds/response of gratitude to Jesus
6. Jesus knew that we would need to be motivated during the end-time plan
7. **They will equip us to persevere by being anchored in eternity with confidence that our choices of obedience will be rewarded in eternity**
8. Jesus emphasizes our need to overcome areas of unfaithfulness
9. We need to rightly interpret what Jesus says as He calls us to overcome since overcomers will receive the fullest measure of these rewards
10. Our obedience is deeply connected to our rewards
11. Rewards are given in addition to the free gift of eternal life
12. Faithfulness if the issue~ not all believers will overcome with faithfulness
13. Persevering to the END!
14. Overcoming has 2 contexts:
15. **Overcoming worldly unbelief**—all believers overcome in this general way by believing Jesus and receiving Him.
16. **Overcoming unfaithfulness**—A believer overcomes specifically as outlined in Rev 2 & 3
17. Walking in maturity; consistently reaching for obedience
18. Does not mean perfection, but we are all reaching for victory with all our strength
19. Our greatest faithfulness is flawed, but yet it is rewarded if we continually seek to obey
20. Reward Scriptures: People only live for a higher purpose when they see a higher purpose
21. 2 Corinthians 2:10, “*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad*.”
22. Psalm 89:9, *“…He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity*.”
23. Jeremiah 17:10, “*But I, the Lord, search the hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve*.”
24. I Corinthians 4:5, “*So don’t make judgments about anyone ahead of time—before the Lord returns. For he will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due*.”

\*\*We are not going in order of the churches & what was promised them as overcomers…I’ve put the rewards in categories\*\*

“*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches*”

Ask the Holy Spirit to unlock the secrets of these rewards to your heart. Ask for the deeper meaning.

Category of Rewards~ **Intimacy with Jesus**

1. “***I will also give him the morning star***.” (Rev 2:28)
2. This is spoken to the church at Thyatira & they are called to **overcome immorality**
3. I encourage all to listen to Benji Nolot’s teaching from ONETHING 2013 “Contending for Purity in a ‘Pornified’ World” (overcoming immorality)
4. Pop culture=sex sells(cheerleaders, “hooters”, strippers, “ring” girls, etc); sex is everything & nothing; glorifying of sex & yet it doesn’t mean anything; women are to be consumed; men are the consumers
5. Porn culture’s influence on our sexuality; porn is the most prominent form of sexual education today (manhood is measured by his ability to dominate and bodies are only sex commodities & womanhood is measured by her body only)
6. What we do:
7. Develop a media literacy (use critical thinking & deconstruct the messages behind the stuff we see in our culture)~ expose toxic sexual messages
8. Reclaim our sexuality (we have a right to a healthy sexuality, not one that the pop culture or porn culture has created)
9. Healthy masculinity
10. Healthy femininity
11. Jesus is the morning star
12. Morning star is the first star to appear in the night sky (Venus) before the sunrise (around 4am)…then it breaks the darkness with dawn; the newness of the day
13. Revelation 22:16, “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to give you the testimony for the churches. I am the Root & The Offspring of David and **the bright morning star**.”
14. He will increase our capacity to encounter Him
15. The face of Jesus shines like the sun (Rev 1:16)
16. He will impart brightness to our spirit
17. In this age= Jesus will shine to make our spirit’s bright; releasing more of His Presence
18. Example of a jaundice baby~ light purifies the blood stream…we need to sit in the Presence of the Morningstar and soak in the light
19. Part of the Glory as c0-heir with Jesus in eternity
20. “*Who is she who* ***looks (Shines) forth as the morning****, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, awesome as an army with banners,”* SOS 6:10
21. Morning=after the long night, the sunlight of the morning brings hope; emphasizes the impact the believer has on the culture (we are the light to the world)
22. Light exposes and dispels the darkness~ there may be those who are called into the culture~ to expose the sexually toxic causes & effects (Benji Nolot has the Morningstar shining upon his face to stand against immorality)

* Any of you feel the morning star calling you to shine light in the 4am hour of this culture?

1. In the age to come=secrets of the morning star will be revealed to those who overcome
2. Light exuding from you? His glory covering you?
3. “Moses’ face glowed so brightly after gazing on the trailing glory of God that peoepl were afraid to come near him (Exodus 34:30). Paul was blind for 3 days after beholding His glory, describing Him as dwelling in ‘unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see’ (I Tim 6:16). And the seraphim, those nearest the Lamb, blaze with such brilliance they are literally called ‘the burning ones’ (Is. 6:3). But the reason Moses’ face shone, Paul was blind, and the seraphim burn is because they had all been gazing on the glory of the Lamb.” Undone: By a Revelation of The Lamb by Sandy Dawn Kirk

Let the light of His face immerse you.

Let His glory cover you!

“When you’re in His presence for extended periods, the molecular composition of your soul gets restructured,” Bob Sorge

1. “***I will write on him the Name of my God, and the Name of the city of my God, the New Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God, and I will also write on him my new Name***,” (Revelation 3:12b)
2. This is spoken to the Church in Philadelphia. 7 rewards are spoken to them and there is no change/repentance that Jesus is asking for.
3. Jesus calls this church to continue to be faithful; maturing in their love and obedience to him all the days of their lives
4. **I will write on him the Name of My God** (Intimate revelation of God’s heart)
5. To have the name of God on us means that we are recipients of His desire, authority, partnership, and revelation of His heart and His beauty
6. This is deep revelation of His heart & mind given to us
7. Facets of His heart that He has not yet made known to you
8. God will write His Word on our heart & mind

\*2 Corinthians 3:3, “…*written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts.”*

*\*”This is my covenant that I will make with them…I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,”* Heb 10:16

1. Just as God wrote the 10 commandments on tablets of stone (with the finger of God)….finger of God=power/intimacy/authority
2. Our mind=revelatory to our mind; expanding the mind to understand; will be filled with the Spirit of revelation~ living understanding
3. Our heart=emotions will be empowered with holy desires
4. Revelation 14:1, *“…144,000 who had His Name and His Father’s Name written on their foreheads.*”
5. Aaron wore on his forehead a golden plate engraved “Holy to the Lord” (Exodus 28:36-38)
6. Revelation 7:3-4~ Saints are sealed with a seal on their foreheads
7. Revelation 22:4, “*They will see His face, and His Name will be on their foreheads.”*
8. **Write on Him My New Name** (Intimate Revelation of God’s Son)
9. Jesus will reveal His heart & beauty to those who remain faithful
10. Jesus’ new Name speaks of a fuller revelation of His Nature as the God-man
11. Revelation 19:12, “*He had a Name written on Him that no one knew except Himself.”*
12. **Write on Him the Name of God’s city, the New Jerusalem** (Intimate Revelation of God’s New City)
13. Jesus will give the overcomers authority in the city and the ability to comprehend it
14. Keys to the city which will point to their unusual authority, commitment and understanding of that city
15. Compass of the city in You
16. Varying degree of this to each believer
17. Our position in the city & when gathering before the Lord in the New Jerusalem, will be affected by our obedience in this age
18. 1200 miles square~ How glorious will this city be? Ever radiating the Presence of God…
19. “***I will come in and eat with him and he with Me***” (Revelation 3:20)
20. This is spoken to the church at Laodicea & Jesus’ call is to resist lukewarmness for the remainder of your life
21. In the natural, the city was in between hot springs & cold springs. By the time the water got to the city in the aquifers, the water was lukewarm. They were not near the source. So it is with the city in the spiritual sense—they were not living near the source.
22. Jesus beckons us to draw near to Him (he stands at the door and knocks); He is patient in waiting for us; He is not distant (“Here I am”)
23. Much of the church is content with just enough Jesus to keep life comfortable; there is no longing for more of His Presence or intimacy
24. Who hears His voice (“*If anyone hears My voice and opens the door…”)*
25. There is always hope to recover what is lost; an opportunity to repent and open the door of intimacy to Jesus
26. In this age: To eat together in covenant intimacy/strength (deep fellowship) as the Holy Spirit tenderizes our heart to feel more of His love, by increasing His our revelation of Jesus
27. “*I sat down in His shade with great delight and His fruit was sweet to my taste…*” SOS 2:3
28. Receive from the Lord in the place of fellowship
29. “*He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love*,” SOS 2:4
30. Receiving Jesus’ leadership of love – we are identified with Him (under His banner)
31. In the age to come=nearness to Jesus; eating with Him at the table; face to face eating with Jesus; physical, personal contact with Him; talking with Him and enjoying His Presence

People only live for a higher purpose when they see a higher purpose.

“God desires that we seek Him with spiritual violence and be utterly abandoned to Him. He is loved and honored when His people seek Him with a spiritual fervor, laying aside everything that gets in the way of obeying and loving Him with all their heart.” Mike Bickle