

Series: Becoming the Church at Philadelphia

Two Part Message: The Eternal Destiny of the Bride

Today: Eternally Possessed by God

I. More on the Season

1. We have entered a season between now and Rosh Hashanah in which God is inviting us to kindle afresh our passion and hunger for Christ and for bridal readiness

2 Tim 1:6: For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

2. Three words I have gotten about this season

- a. I got this word last Sunday morning about this season: This is a season of seasons and a time of times. Do not let familiarity or busyness keep you from participating or cause you to ignore this time.
- b. Then I heard this last Monday morning: This season of seasons and time of times is NOT intended to bring us down like we can never achieve what God wants, but to is for us to be repositioned for increase for the next season which is upon us and the world . So we are to get excited about the season, not to ignore it or dread it. There is and will be an anointing of grace to overcome through you those areas where you really need for God to come through on your behalf. Take advantage of this time of favor and grace.
- c. Then I heard this last Thursday (6/12/25): Enjoy your vacations, but do not spend the summer in vacation mode. Storm clouds are gathering. This is a serious time of preparation. Don't miss it. In all your getting (doing), get *understanding* (Prov 4:7: "*Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.*") Don't dread the season, but enjoy the season of learning, impartation, and increase.

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3. What I believe God wants to accomplish in this season

- a. Alert us and do a fresh awakening in us to the assignment of readiness.
- b. Restore a first love relationship in us so that the idea of readiness does not push us away or offend us or defeat us but rather stirs a passion in us of love and desire.
- c. Restore some of the concepts that Noel taught us that we have laid down.
 - i. Judy's dream: I dreamt that they were walking up, I think it was an outdoor scene, and we were happy to see each other. We were hugging and I remember saying "I'm so glad to see you, it's been so long! When was the last time you came, was it 2015?" And that's really all I can remember, being so very happy to see them. Afterward in reality I wanted to see when he died so I looked at the RLC memorial for him and looked for his obituary to see if 2015 was right, it wasn't. The memorial was beautiful and very touching. But then I remembered just knowing after he died that he was definitely among the cloud of witnesses and knowing he was cheering on the saints. I can remember I think hearing him say "Come on!!!!!! You can do itttt!!!" Hearing his passion when he was here preaching and admonishing us to pursue the Lord.
- d. For us to put greater confidence in God's power and grace in us to be the overcomer within us so that love, desire, and lovesickness for Him surpass fear and judgment.

4. My final thought about this season

- a. Don't dread or ignore this season. So far for Donna and I, it has been wonderful. A fresh sensing of His presence and voice in our times with Him. I love this season so far and am expecting the Holy Spirit to do something magnificent in my life and the church. So get excited about it!

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II. Foundational Principle for Understanding the Bride's Destiny

1. "Does the bride made ready as depicted by the church at Philadelphia inherit all of the promises offered to the overcomers in all of the 7 churches?" the short answer is "Yes". Let's explain.

- a. The rebukes, exhortations, and promises for each church apply to all the churches

Rev 2:7: He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes,

- b. Plural and same with every church. Therefore, the promises made to the overcomers in each church apply to each of the seven churches in Revelation and to all churches throughout history and today.

- c. **Robert Thomas wrote:** *"The use of the plural indicates the universal character of the invitation each time it occurs in these two chapters. By this call, the message to a single congregation is extended to all the churches of Asia and through them, as representatives, to church throughout the world and I add for all time."*

- d. The church at Philadelphia received no rebuke; therefore, we understand because of this, if they maintained their overcoming status until the end, they would receive the rewards promised to them and to all the churches

- 2. Since there was no rebuke of Philadelphia and the rebukes, etc. applied to every church, Philadelphia was heir to every promise made to all seven churches
- 3. As I look at the rewards to the seven churches, I came up with seventeen specific rewards to the overcomer: 1) eating from the tree of life; 2) not hurt by the second death; 3) eating hidden manna; 4) a white stone; 5) a new name on the stone; 6) authority over the nations; 7) the morning star; 8) clothed in white wedding garments; 9) name not blotted out of the book of life; 10) name

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confessed before the Father; 11) made a pillar in the temple of God; 12) given the name of God; 13) given the name of the city of God; 14) given Christ's new name; 15) granted to sit with Christ on His throne; 16) invited to dine with Christ at in this life, at the marriage supper of the Lamb,, and forever; and 17) given the crown of life.

III. Categorization of the Rewards

1. In the past, we have characterized eternal rewards into three categories: eternal intimacy, eternal glory, and eternal authority. That is a good categorization, but I want to expand it to six categories here.
2. The six areas are:
 - a. Set apart uniquely as God's eternal possession
 - b. Granted Eternal Union with Christ
 - c. Positioned for Eternal Intimacy with Christ
 - d. Clothed in Glorious adornment
 - e. Granted Eternal Partnership with Christ in His mission
 - f. Empowered with Eternal authority granted by Christ in His mission

IV. Set apart uniquely as God's eternal possession

1. To see this unique place Christ is offering the overcomers, let's look at the "new name" being given to the church at Philadelphia and to all the overcomers.
2. The bride made ready is given the name of the Father, the name of the new Jerusalem, and the name of Christ

Rev 3:12: I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

3. They are designated with Christ's name at the mid point of the tribulation

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Rev 14:1-5: Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

4. When He returns He will be clothed in the new name given to the Philadelphia church.

Rev 19:11-12: And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.

5. They are designated with Christ's name throughout eternity also

*Rev 22:1-4: Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, ... and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; 4 they will see His face, and **His name will be on their foreheads.***

6. To bear these names is to **be marked forever as the personal possession** of God and of Christ,
 - a. set apart in a unique and intimate way for His glory.
 - b. Just as a bride takes the name of her husband, so these overcomers are sealed as those who are eternally Christ's,
 - c. signifying their unbreakable union, ownership, and identification with Him.
 - d. This name-bearing reflects their bridal identity—those fully given to Christ and possessed by Him forever, distinguished among the redeemed as His own special treasure throughout eternity.
7. So, being given the name of the Father and the Son and the city speaks of a unique relationship given to the bride made ready in which the Godhead

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possesses the bride in a unique relationship—set apart and different than that of other believers.

8. It speaks of:

- a. Possession
- b. Identity
- c. Intimacy
- d. Representation
- e. Security
- f. Permanence

More on Possession

1. Possessed means: to be completely controlled by something or someone.
 - a. People who bow their knee to God and Him alone
 - b. Worship Him alone
 - c. Live for Him alone
 - d. Live without lies but in genuine truth
 - e. Follow Him wherever He goes
 - f. Completely His
2. In ancient Jewish marriage tradition, possession of the bride was a part of the betrothal ceremony.
 - a. In biblical days, the idea of betrothal referred to a man “taking of a woman”. Thus, the betrothal ceremony was a time for a man “to take” a woman to be his wife. The term *mekudeshet* was employed in the betrothal ceremony suggesting that at the time of the betrothal ceremony, the bride from that point forward was consecrated to the groom.
 - b. As such, the groom would recite, “Behold, you are mekudeshet [consecrated] unto me”, signifying that the bride was being set apart for the groom.

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- c. It suggests that the bride was purchased by the groom and was now set apart for him and him alone.
3. So being given the name of the Father and the Son acknowledges that the overcomer is the possession of God in fulness
4. It means the bride made ready has been completely set apart for God and His purposes

Identity and Security

1. *Rev 3:10: 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.'*

2. Look at this verse

*Rev 13:16-17: Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, 17 so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, **the name of the beast** or the number of its name.*

3. Those carrying the name of the beast will forever be separated from God and those bearing the name of Christ will be purchased from the earth—kept from the hour of testing which is coming upon the whole earth
4. Whether that is the rapture of the man child overcoming bride or protection through the testings that are coming upon the earth. Being bearing Christ's name by allowing Him to possess us is really important in THIS HOUR.
5. The bride made ready having the name of Christ on her forehead will be part of the first fruits company of overcomers

Eternal Representation

1. Even in the eternal ages, the bride will be permanently marked with Christ's name
 - a. Speaks of a lot of things,

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- b. One is eternal representation
- c. This person is mine. He carries my authority. Obey him.