

Realign

James 1:12; Revelation 3:21-22

Sermon Outline

A. To Gain a Crown (vs. 1:12):

1. Blessed – They are blessed because God has provided to them the inner strength to endure the trial. This produces perfection because of the work of the Holy Spirit.
2. Blessed – The person who endures trials has allowed the trial to have its perfect result and has been perfected and is complete so they are blessed.
3. Blessed – Because of God's indwelling the believer has been perfected and the fruit of the Spirit becomes who the believer is (Galatians 2:20) so that their righteous life experiences spiritual prosperity (Galatians 5:22-25). "To be blessed is equivalent to having God's kingdom fully established within one's heart."
4. Perseveres; Endure – To persevere is to continuously resist by remaining committed to the faith in the midst of adverse circumstances, bearing up courageously waiting on the Lord to be the deliverer (Joshua 1:5-9).
5. Perseveres; Endure – To persevere is to continuously refuse to flee in the midst of miseries and persecution, without retaliating, because one's hope is in Christ and Christ alone.
6. Trial; Temptation – The person who is maturing under adversity is experiencing God's testing to expose the nature of God's work in them. The more Paul was tested is the more the nature of Christ was magnified in his character (Philippians 3:12-21). This is the direct object of all that God allows a believer to encounter in the development of their Christian faith (John 16:33; 1 Peter 1:6-7; 4:12; Acts 14:22; Job 23:10; Rom. 5:3-4; Phil. 1:6; 3:12-13; 1 Th. 1:6).
7. For once he has been - The work Christ is doing in a believer's life is once and for all accomplished as Christ nurtures them to become spiritual giants (Philippians 3:7-16).
8. Approved – In the midst of trials, when a believer perseveres, by their consistent commitment to surrender their lives to Christ, they demonstrate their faith to be authentic; **Example** – A diamond proves itself when being used to cut glass.
9. Approved – To be approved is demonstrated when a believer, no matter the intensity of adversity they experience, they remain firm in their commitment to obey and trust the Lord their God.
10. He will receive – The Lord on His own initiative provides what the believer faithfully longed to obtain.

11. Crown of life – The Crown of Life is a reward for those who prove victorious through trials.
12. Crown of life – Those believers who remained steadfast through adversity and persecution receives a victorious prize as they experience the best of the best life Christ provides in heaven.
13. Promise – The prize is a once and for all covenant commitment that the Lord emphatically declares He will provide. A covenant is provided by the one who commits to it with no possibility that it can be broken.
14. To those who love Him – Those who willfully direct their will, self-sacrificially, as a result of the direction of the Holy Spirit, affectionately serve God with all their hearts is a person who truly loves the Lord (Psalm 34).

B. To Share His Throne (Revelation 3:21-22):

1. We often use these verses to lead lost people to Christ, but the basic application is to the believer. The Lord was outside the Laodicean church! He spoke to the individual—“if any man”—and not to the whole congregation. He appealed to a small remnant in Sardis (Rev. 3:4–5), and now He appeals to the individual. God can do great things in a church, even through one dedicated individual.^[1]
2. He who overcomes – An overcomer is a believer who continuously demonstrates spiritual superiority over life obstacles (1 John 4:4).
3. He who overcomes – An overcomer is a believer who in the midst of adversity remains obedient to the word of God, by the strength of the Holy Spirit, demonstrating genuine superiority over persecution and overwhelming circumstances (Romans 8:31-39).
4. Grant; Give – The believers who overcomes the Lord permanently allows them to possess a place on His throne with Him.
5. To sit down (rest from all the suffering while remaining faithful):

a) While the promise that Christians will reign with Christ occurs occasionally in the NT (2 Tim 2:12), it occurs with striking frequency in Revelation (1:6; 5:10; 20:4, 6; 22:5) and is a conception partially modeled after Dan 7:18, 27. The enthronement of the twelve apostles as judges of the twelve tribes of Israel is mentioned in Q (Luke 22:30 = Matt 19:28). The promise that the victorious Christian will sit with Christ on His throne is based on ancient Near Eastern and Israelite kingship and enthronement imagery. A similar promise is found in 4Q521 = 4QMessianic Apocalypse 2 ii 7: “For He will honour the devout [מִיִּדִים *ḥsdîm*] upon the throne of eternal royalty” (tr. García Martínez, DSS, 394). A vision report centered on the motif of enthronement is found in the second century B.C. Hellenistic Jewish dramatist Ezekiel, *Exagoge* 68–82 (tr. H. Jacobson, *The Exagoge of Ezekiel* [Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1983] 55).^[2]

6. As I also overcame – Christ repeatedly faced adversity and extreme persecution and remained faithful in executing what His Father told Him to do (1 Peter 2:21-25).
7. With My Father – Christ call God Father because God is the One who authored Christ ministry on earth and is the Beginner of everyone's faith (John 3:16; 17:18).
8. He who has ears – Having ears here represents a person who continually makes it a habit to cling to what the Spirit of God is saying.
9. Let him hear – The believer who intently listens to the Holy Spirit is now commanded to comprehend what He is saying with a heart to obey.
10. What the Spirit – The Holy Spirit is the person who communicates what God wants to say to us (John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15). He does this by illuminating the written Word and reminding us of what it says (John 14:26).
11. Says – The Holy Spirit communicates with us all the time so that He can empower us to be overcomers through the Word of God (Isaiah 55:11; 1 John 2:26-27).
12. Church – The Holy Spirit speaks to those called out believers who assemble as brethren (loving community committed to the Word of God), freed citizens of the kingdom of God.

^[1] Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 581). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

^[2] Aune, D. E. (1997). [*Revelation 1–5*](#) (Vol. 52A, p. 261). Dallas: Word, Incorporated.