

## The Hope of the Church

Success of teacher → Growth of students

Glory/shame of teacher ← Glory/shame of students

Priests “must be holy to their God and must not profane [treat as common; defile] the name of their God.” Leviticus 21:6

Praise for some churches: Ephesians 1:15-16; Romans 1:8

Rebuke for some churches: 1 Corinthians 3:1-3a; Hebrews 5:11-14



## Revelation 1:9-20

1:9-11

1:12-16

“As I looked, “thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.” **Daniel 7:9-10**

“On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.” **Daniel 10:4-6**

1:17-18

1:19-20

Chapters 2-3

Jesus knew their challenging situations

Trouble, poverty. Persecution, imprisonment, slander. Living where Satan’s throne is

Jesus knew their shortcomings

Abandoned their first love for Christ. Tolerating evil and evil people who were leading people astray. Looked alive, but they were actually dead! Imagined that they were rich and without needs, but actually wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, naked

Jesus gave commands to the churches

Be earnest and repent. Do the things you did at first. Do not be afraid of suffering. Be faithful, even to the point of death.

Remember and hold on to the Truth. Endure patiently. Get true riches from Christ. **“Overcome”/“Be victorious”**

Amazing hope for those who ‘overcome’

Eat from the tree of life in the paradise of God. No judgment. Given a holy, precious name. Will rule over the nations.

Clothed in white, and claimed by Christ. A part of God’s temple. Residents of the city of God. Seated with Christ on His throne! **All pointing to when Christ returns...**

<sup>6</sup>Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. <sup>7</sup>Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. <sup>8</sup>Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.) **Revelation 19:6-8**

“Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.” **Revelation 21:1-2**

<sup>9</sup>One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” <sup>10</sup>And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. <sup>11</sup>It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.” **Revelation 21:9-11**



## The Big Idea

The great hope of the Church is

the glory and presence of our Savior today

and the glory He is making in us for tomorrow

“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

**Matthew 16:18**

“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.” **Ephesians 5:25-27**

## What are we to do?

### Focus on the glory of our risen Lord

Picture Jesus Christ right now

We would fall at His feet as though dead!

Yet He is here among us and His Church

### Focus on the glorious future of the Church

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know... the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people.” **Ephesians 1:18**

Times of suffering in all kinds of trials “have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith...may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.” **1 Peter 1:7**



### Overcome → Live in and for Jesus

“Do not be **overcome** by evil, but **overcome** evil with good.” **Romans 12:21**

Be earnest and repent

Do not be afraid of suffering

Be faithful, enduring patiently

Get true riches from Christ

Join the work of Christ in His Church

“The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads aloud 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.” **Revelation 1:1-3**

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## Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. Some people have pointed out the difference between our “professed theology” (what we say we believe) and our “lived theology” (what actually shapes our lives). When we think about Jesus’ situation now and what he is doing, what is your “lived theology”? How is that similar to and/or different from what John saw in Revelation 1?
2. When we think about the Church today, what is your “lived theology”? In other words, what do you see and how does that affect how you live? How is that similar to and/or different from what we read in Revelation 2-3 and 19 and 21?
3. What does it mean today for you to “overcome” as Jesus told the 7 churches?
4. What does it mean today for us to “overcome” together as a local church?

## Conversation starters this week

When you look at Christians, what do you see?

When you look at the Christian Church, what do you see?

Given that, what does it make you think about Jesus?