

Matthew 19-12-08b

Our thanks to Dan and Anna and Lori for bringing us that wonderful music. I think it delights the Lord to take the smallest church in America and give it some of the best and most inspiring special music to be found. And it's just a great, great blessing we've enjoyed across many years now.

Watched Anna Lynn go from somebody whose feet wouldn't reach the floor from the piano bench all the way to the beautiful young lady she now is. And we're richly blessed. It's my favorite part of every gathering.

Let's continue our study now in Matthew chapter 7. And we've come to this, not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord. A lot of people recognize that Jesus is Lord. You can't say, you know, John talks about this, no one can say Jesus is Lord.

I just had an interesting conversation around that particular saying. Was it yesterday, Elizabeth, or the day before? Someone has made a t-shirt and put this in every different language, Jesus is Lord. And they have it in sign, they have it in multiple languages.

But what of course caught my eye was the Greek and the Hebrew. And bless this girl's heart, she's doing a wonderful thing, I think it's really great. But I wish she had checked with me or somebody like me before she sent the thing off to the printer because the Greek and Hebrew were both wrong.

But nobody will know but me probably so. Anyway, but the phrase all over the front of this t-shirt is, Jesus is Lord. And so she had Adon who, Yeshua, which is close, Adon is the singular for Lord.

But because you read Hebrew from right to left and not left to right, what she actually had on there is, the Lord is Yeshua, which is not strictly correct. Yeshua is Lord but the Lord isn't contained within Yeshua. You've got God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, they are Lord also.

So, and then the other one is she picked up, she was quoting Philippians 2.9, I think. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Well, I knew it was wrong because she had, she had, let's see, something along the lines of Iesús curius eis.

And if you speak Spanish, you might be able to get away with eis as a verb. But I knew it was wrong but I couldn't figure out what was right and I thought, what should the verb be? And I thought, well, esta, no that's not it, that's Spanish. But the problem is throughout the New Testament, there never is a verb.

It just says Iesús, Iesús curius or Iesús curion or Iesús Christos curius or some, it doesn't ever include a verb. The word that she had picked up was eis, which is the preposition

that goes with the rest of the verse, unto or toward the glory of God the Father. So her t-shirt literally says Jesus the Lord into.

But again, I digress. We're talking about entering into the kingdom, inheriting the kingdom. And this third great category flows naturally from our recent digression into end times and the next event for us following the rapture, which is the judgment seat of Christ.

And whether we see is a given because if we go in the rapture, we have been born again and so we will all see the kingdom. Whether we enter the kingdom depends on if we have been striving to enter by the narrow gate and have not been deceived, have not been fooled, have not gone awry or astray, not seen the matting throng around us and thinking, well, it must be right because look how many people are doing it. But inheritance is what we're after.

I commended to your attention in the end times study, and I want to commend it again, if there was only one book on yourself besides the Bible, if you were going to be stranded on a desert island, *The Reign of the Servant Kings* by Jody Dillow, Joseph C. Dillow, this is the one you want. This is, as we said at Navy, this is the gouge. This is the scoop.

This is the skinny. This is the information you need. Everything you need to know about our opportunities, our responsibilities, what is coming up is in here.

And I'm going to give you a sample because he's got a good section in here on inheriting. What is the inheritance? Don't, please, let's not stop at just seeing the kingdom. And let's not just stop at entering the kingdom.

We have the opportunity. I believe God put our little church on earth to create inheritors, to create heirs. If sons, then heirs.

That's why we're here. Many churches, wonderful churches, God puts them here just like he does individuals. In the same way that gifts are given to individuals that differ, I think missions and purposes and opportunities differ for different churches.

Our church is only here for one reason, and that, I believe, is to push to the limit of service and obedience and faith, laying hold of righteousness by faith, maximizing what we have in this life. I see no other reason for God to sustain us as he has so graciously done over these many years and allowed us to see so many wonderful things in his Word except to motivate us and encourage us to see, aim for that narrow gate and get through it and enter into life and reflect the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ to the maximum extent. That's what Jody is talking about in this book.

So let me just give you a quick summary here, talking about the overcomers. You're going to end up in Revelation chapter 2 and chapter 3. Who are the overcomers? And on

page 471 here, which is chapter 20, that deals with Hebrews, Peter, and Revelation. This is an extremely well-organized book.

It's a great reference. You can use it like an encyclopedia or you can read it straight through. You can take sections and read it through.

It is very inspiring. You will come away wanting to get with it. If you take time to procure a copy, mine is getting a little long in the tooth now, but mine is by the Schottel Publishing Company, which is S-C-H, that's my initials by the way, S-C-H-O-E-T-T-L-E, Schottel Publishing Company in Hayesville, North Carolina.

And mine was published in 92, second edition 1993, but there may be newer ones than that. This one has served me quite well. So here in chapter 20, overcomers inherit.

In Revelation 21-7, the apostle tells us, he who overcomes shall inherit these things. I will be his God, he will be my people. We were just in Revelation 21 and 22 last time.

You remember these things, the city, the light, the trees, the river, the lamb is the light, access through the gates, the names of the tribes, the names of the apostles united because this is the destination of all overcomers of every age is the New Jerusalem. He who overcomes will inherit these things, not just see them, not just enter on a day pass, but be an owner, be invested, own a piece of the rock. So we turn over, there's an entire chapter dedicated to this, it's chapter 24, it's called The Final Significance of Man here, and he gives an illustration to begin, and he quotes Carl Sagan.

Materialist scientist Carl Sagan begins his book on cosmic evolution with the confident words, I wish I could do as well as my brother Matthew on imitating Carl Sagan's accent, the cosmos is all that is or ever will be. The cosmos, the material world around you, the plastic and the plaster that you can touch is all that ever is or ever will be. There could never have been a more galactically wrong statement, which Carl unfortunately now knows, than this.

Throughout the book he spells cosmos with a capital C, an aura of mystical wonder akin to what the religious man calls worship pervades his description of his cosmos, capital C. He is so impressed with what is out there, quote unquote, that at times he almost seems to ascribe the attributes of deity to the organized mass of atoms known as the universe. He has in fact given us a modern day nature myth. Of its own accord, these atoms have organized themselves into the enormously complex universe which invokes Sagan's reverence.

But is this really all that ever will be? Some modern cosmologists seem to think so. As he concludes his scientific hand of this modern nature myth, the Big Bang Theory's Steven Weinberg, professor of physics at Harvard, turns to the questions of final significance. His theory has led him to the depressing conclusion that the universe is without purpose

or design.

We're talking about the polar opposite of what the Lord Jesus is telling us in Matthew chapter 7. Steven Weinberg has concluded, he's a professor of physics at Harvard. The universe is without purpose or design. Of course this was the case 30 years ago when this was written.

We are, he concludes, merely specks in an overwhelmingly hostile universe. Quote, the more the universe seems comprehensible, the more it also seems pointless. What solace does he offer? What is the significance of man? What are we to do with this pointless situation which his hostile cosmos has thrust upon us? Listen, the effort to understand the universe is one of the very few things that lifts human life a little above the level of farce and gives it some of the grace of tragedy.

That's worth a look. One can sympathize with the pain Weinberg must feel at having to summarize the final significance of his life in such pointless terms. We can also appreciate his honesty.

On materialist presuppositions, not much more can be said. The effort to understand the universe is one of the very few things that lifts human life a little above the level of farce and gives it some of the grace of tragedy. But Jody's going to go on in this chapter to discuss what the Bible presents, what you and I know to be true about the final significance of man.

The idea of our future inheritance is a central theme of the Bible. All Christians are heirs of God, but not all are co-heirs with Christ. You know this from Paul, all will have God as their inheritance, but not all will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.

It is this latter inheritance which is the subject of this chapter. And I'm not going to take the time in Matthew to cover what is in this chapter. I am recommending to you this book.

Get it here. I can do no better job than what Jody Dillow has done in this entire book in general, and this chapter in particular. If you want motivation, if you want to put fresh spark plugs in your engine, read this chapter.

But the Old Testament prefigured this inheritance. The New Testament writers enriched the concept immeasurably. At least six separate facets of this great reward are described.

Number one, participation at the wedding banquet. We talked about this recently. The wedding feast.

Participation. Old Testament saints, are you a friend of the groom? Are you going to be in or are you going to be out? We, are we going to be in as a part of the celebration, or are

we going to be like the foolish virgins who are off looking for fuel? Number one is participation at the wedding banquet. Number two, the prize to the overcomers.

More about that momentarily. Number three, a special class of resurrection. Yes, we are all raised, but Paul talks in first Corinthians, as stars differ from stars in glory, so shall it be in the resurrection.

Remember when Paul says, I do not count myself as having attained. I pray that I may come to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. And in that verse, there is a unique hapoxlegomenon, a word used nowhere else in the New Testament for resurrection.

It's ex-anastasis. Or, is it anastasis? It's to raise again. I'll give it to you here in a minute.

But, yeah, it's ex-anastasis. In Philippians 3, 10 and 11. A special word that is used.

And the argument here is a special class of resurrection. Paul, the apostle Paul, is still pressing toward the mark of the high call. Why? Because he knows that there is a special class of resurrection.

And he mentions it in Philippians 3. And he says, I want to attain to that. Now, I mentioned this Thursday night. Remember when I was talking about the morning star? I didn't really get a chance to fully develop that thought.

But in Revelation 22, when Jesus says, I am the morning star, and he promises in Revelation 2 to the church at Thyatira, I will give him the morning star. I believe the morning star is a reference to this ex-anastasis special class of resurrection that is the equivalent of entering the realms of the archangels or the seraphim, perhaps. Something, it's so beyond our comprehension, you know, my frequently revisited bacteria in the drop of pond water trying to understand, you know, computers.

But it is a unique and special resurrection. And listen, you don't have to sleep on a bed of nails. You don't have to walk coals.

You don't have to throw yourself on a grenade. You don't have to do anything but love God, love his word, live your daily life to please him, and dedicate yourself to it. Love not the world or the things that are in the world.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength. That's it. Do the will of God to enter.

Seek hunger and thirst after righteousness. You will be filled. And these inheritances are available.

So special class of resurrection, that's number three. Number four, co-reigning with Christ. Participating, being useful, returning to the Lord Jesus' service, which could never

begin to repay him for the sacrifice that he made on our behalf.

Treasures in heaven. These things are so beyond our kin. It's like trying to explain how great a Maserati is to a two-year-old.

You just can't get it across. Treasures in heaven. And finally, praise and honor from Christ.

This is the pinnacle. To be approved, to have the Lord Jesus Christ call you by name and introduce you to his father at the throne. Nothing touches that.

These are the inheritance. I say again, number one, participation at the wedding banquet. Number two, the prize to overcomers.

Number three, special resurrection. Number four, co-reigning with Christ. Number five, treasures in heaven.

Number six, praise and honor from the Lord Jesus Christ himself. And by extension, introduction to God the Father. So you have these overcomer prizes.

Revelation 2.7, he who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the tree of life. This is an overcomer gift. You think everybody's just going to walk down the avenue and pick fruit off the tree of life? No.

That is a restricted privilege for overcomers. That's you. Don't think I wish I was an overcomer.

Say I am an overcomer and I need to start acting like it or I need to continue to act like it. I think many people listening to the sound of my voice are in this category and just need to persevere in need of endurance so that after you have suffered a while, you inherit the promises. Inherit.

So right to eat from the tree of life in the paradise of God, Revelation 2.7, that's one. Another prize to overcomers, Revelation 2.11, be faithful to the point of death. I will give you the crown of life.

This is a special reward. And this doesn't necessarily mean that you're faithful to the point that you're a martyr persecuted to death. This means you endure whatever affliction, whatever oppression, whatever suffering, whatever challenges, whatever opposition, whatever coefficient of friction has been built into your life, it never stops you.

You persevere. Be faithful until you die. You don't waver.

You don't fade. You know, you don't have to go back and remember the former works. You've lost your first love.

No, you keep your first love. You keep your former works. You're faithful to the end.

Crown of life is on the line. I don't know what that is, but I know I want one. And so do you.

You want the crown of life and we'll see why when we get there. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.

No loss. Your inheritance, your reward, your blessing and opportunity and service package for the future will not be in any way diminished at the renewal of all things. When this earth and heavens are enveloped in flame and melt with a fervent heat, your stuff is intact.

You lose nothing. It's in a fireproof box. That's Revelation 2.11. Revelation 2.17. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Notice every single time Jesus says the Spirit is speaking these things. It's not a one-time message. It is an ongoing conviction.

The world gets convicted of sin, righteousness and judgment. You know what the Holy Spirit convicts believers on? Be a co-heir with Christ. Be with Him so that He can be the firstborn among many brethren.

Firstborn means inheritance. Remember in Romans 8, Revelation 2.17, what the Spirit says to the churches, to him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will apportion out hidden manna.

Manna is bread from heaven. This is angel's food. There's a wonderful hymn in the Sacred Harp shape note hymnal that it's all about this manna.

And it's a great old Sturm und Drang tune, but it talks about the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it. I was thinking about this.

Pilots have nicknames. They're referred to by other pilots. If you watch Jeeves and Wooster, guys that know each other and are part of a confraternity have little nicknames for each other.

Lord Chufnel is Chuffy and so on. Well, it is a term of intimacy and knowledge and experience that goes back a ways. Nicknames are conferred and often prized by the people who receive them because it means that you have this long lasting, usually lifelong friendship.

It doesn't have to be there, but when they are there, that's what it is. If the Lord Jesus gives you a white stone and there's a name on it and only you and he know that name,

what's that name good for? What does it mean? It means that the Lord Jesus is going to look at you and call you by this name in private conversation. If nobody knows the name but you and he, this means that you get personal one-on-one time with the Lord Jesus himself.

I hope he doesn't see me and say, well, there's old wrong way Corrigan. It was a pilot that famously went the wrong way for a great distance and they called him wrong way. I conferred a nickname on somebody I knew at the Naval Academy that just had a knack, had a gift for doing the opposite of what they were supposed to.

We had just had electricity and learned about zener diodes. A zener diode only allows electricity to travel in one direction. It won't go the other way and it's like a one-way thing.

Sometimes that's a long story, but you can think about situations where all of the benefit in a relationship flows one way. That's my zener nickname. We want a good nickname.

I don't want to be, well, there comes old cataclysmic failure, Sam, or something. We want something that's worthy of being written on the white stone. Revelation 2.17. Revelation 2.26, to him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations.

Authority over the nations. There are going to be nations in the millennial kingdom. There are going to be nations in the kingdom of the Father.

Why? If everybody will be happy over there, why aren't we all in one big heavenly Israel? Why aren't we all going to our various addresses in the new Jerusalem? Not only is there going to be a new Jerusalem on the new earth and environs around it, but there are going to be nations. Nations are at a distance. Nations have borders.

Nations have governments. Nations have groups of individuals that are alike and together. In this age, maybe it's their language, it's their culture, it's their history, it's their genetics, whatever it might be, but you have a basis of organization for nations.

What's the basis of organization for nations in the kingdom of the Son and then after that, the kingdom of the Father? Kingdom of the Son is the millennium. Kingdom of the Father is the eternal kingdom where there's no sea, there's no night, don't need the sun and moon, planets are gone. By the way, this is another reason why I don't believe people that say it's just a renovation.

No, there's no solar system. You get the heaven and you get the earth and that's it. And God is going to dwell on earth.

It's an amazing thing. The dwelling of God is with man. So, authority over the nations.

Why are there nations? What is the organizing principle of the nations? To what extent did you get with it? To what extent were you faithful? Were you a two-fold field? Were you a ten-fold field? Were you a thirty-fold field? The principle of organization is going to be relative degrees of faith and obedience. There is no other organizing principle for a nation. No need for languages, no need for ethnicities, no need to preserve old failed cultural mores that people drag over here and try to prop up in the United States.

That's what killed their country and they bring it over here and instead of melting into the melting pot, they try to rebuild their failed system here and all it does is divide and cause problems. Authority over the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter and you will be a part of this administration.

Why do you need rule with an iron scepter? Because there are the unruly. And this brings up a question I thought about covering in End Times, but I'm going to briefly mention it here. What about free will in this time of the kingdom? Whether you see it, enter it, inherit, hopefully inherit, do you still have free will? We talked about how nothing that corrupts or defiles can enter the New Jerusalem and so on.

Well, how is that possible? And there's been a lot of thought given to this about can you actually, does God just lock down your brain so that you won't ever decide to sin or decide to perpetrate a disobedience or a wrong? And there is evidence in scripture that we continue to have free will. The eternal future doesn't make much sense if you really can't be yourself. But there's an atheist, what is he? The cosmic skeptic or somebody on YouTube is an atheist.

And he says, these are not the reasons I'm an atheist, but here's the problems I see with those who are believers in a God, especially the God of Christianity. He says, you know, your position is illogical for many reasons. And he's got a whole series of videos on this, but I was shown one where he was saying, you know, the whole idea of heaven can't be true because you can't have both free will and perfection.

Well, it's worth watching in my opinion, just because this is the classic fallacy of the false premise. You begin by saying you can't have both free will and perfection, because if you have free will, somebody is going to choose to do wrong and then it won't be perfect. And in your little bacteria in the pond drop, you say, see, debate ends.

Heaven is nonsensical because you cannot have truly free will and moral choice and maintain absolute perfection. Well, the Bible does not ever say in the same way that it never says the earth is 6,000 years old. It never says that heaven is perfect.

There is no scripture that says that the kingdom of the father, I use heaven in the popular sense here, that the kingdom of the father is nothing but perfection. In fact, it suggests the opposite. There are nations and there is rule of those nations.

The only reason to have rule is because you have unruly and you need rule. It's not a big party and you just need somebody to order the next course or something, and it's sort of a figurehead government. It's a real government and it governs in real terms and it enforces policies and there will be retribution for wrong and there will be reward for right.

There will be distribution of things like the leaves of the tree of life for the healing of the nations, but there's government and there are nations because it is not perfect. Where is it perfect? In the new Jerusalem. In the same way that the perfection of earth pertained in the garden of Eden, there is perfection in the new Jerusalem.

That's why you not just want to see it and you not just want to enter it. You want to live there. You want to inherit and you want to be qualified to live there.

And we have to train ourselves now because of that filter I mentioned in the first session. God is testing. God is evaluating.

God is giving us the opportunity to demonstrate that we are qualified. And what the secular atheist cosmic skeptic, cosmic says his name, cosmic skeptic, you can look him up. He's a very charming British accent young man.

He's smart, but he undermines himself with faulty assumptions. Here's the thing. What does he miss? What do most atheists miss when they ballyhoo a scriptural witness about quote unquote heaven? Those who are there have been organized and segregated.

Sorry, but there's segregation in heaven and there are places that some people cannot go. You can only go into the new Jerusalem if you are someone who will not corrupt it or defile it. We read that Thursday night, Revelation 22.

Nothing will be into the gates that will corrupt or defile. Such things exist, but they won't be allowed through the gates. Right? So how can we be that if we have free will? Well, let me ask you this.

You have free will right now. There are businesses in your vicinity to which you could go break in and steal. Maybe there's something you want.

Maybe there's something you feel you need. Why don't you do that? Do you have the opportunity? Do you have means and perhaps motive and opportunity? Are there crimes that you can commit? Can you pull your concealed weapon and pop some rounds into people in your vicinity? You have free will. Why don't you do that? It's not in your nature.

It is not in your nature to commit those crimes. It's not in your nature to kick a dog until you kill it. You could choose to do that.

Your will is free, right? But we would never do that. Why? It's abhorrent to our nature.

How can you be someone qualified to live in the New Jerusalem and the Kingdom of the Father? You develop a nature to which all things that corrupt and defile are abhorrent.

And you would no more bring something into the New Jerusalem such as yourself that would corrupt or defile it than you would to kick a dog to death. Now, there are people who do horrible things to animals. Ask the SPCA.

They'll show you films. Watch late night commercials asking for donations for those who try to rescue these dogs that have been chained and left in the cold and unfed and no water and die of neglect. There are people whose nature doesn't prevent that.

Why are we so intent on doing the will of God, on learning the Word of God, on cultivating the ministry of God's Holy Spirit? Because it transforms our nature. Romans 12, 1 and 2, I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God. This is your reasonable service.

And what's the next verse? And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you will know what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Good, see the kingdom. Acceptable, enter the kingdom.

Perfect, inherit the kingdom. Good and acceptable and perfect will of God. It is absolutely possible.

It's a matter of curating our souls. It is a matter of deciding who and what we want to be. The grace is available.

The power doesn't come from us. It comes from the Word and the Spirit. So this is what it means to inherit, to rule authority over the nations.

He will rule them with an iron scepter. He will dash them to pieces like pottery. Just as I have received authority from my Father, I will also give him the morning star.

Highest rank, greatest privilege. Why would you have the high rank and great privilege? Who gets that in human life? At least in the ideal. Those who can be trusted with it, to not abuse it.

Why is everybody all angry with the president? Ostensibly it is because he abused position and power. This is the charge, whether it's true or not, completely separate question. But the charge is that someone who has been given great rank and authority abused it and used it for their personal gain.

We only want people with great power and great position to possess it if they are trusted, proven, and we have no worries that they're going to abuse it. So who's going to get the morning star? Who's going to rule nations? The ones that the Lord Jesus can trust because their nature has been so transformed, they're not going to abuse or misuse that

authority and that position. This is what we're doing.

It's what we're doing right this very minute. What are we doing? We're soaking our souls in the Word of God to be transformed. It doesn't say transform yourself.

It doesn't say renew your own mind. It says be transformed, be renewed. We let God do it through His Spirit and through His Word.

I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, and most of us have got two, let us hear what the Spirit is saying. Revelation chapter 3 verse 5, he who overcomes will be dressed in white.

I will never blot out his name from the book of life. This book of life is the book of life that grants access to the kingdom, grants access to the New Jerusalem. There are several different books of life.

There's the book of the living, who's currently alive on the planet. There's the book of life that talks about, are you born again? And there is a book of life that grants access and introduction into the New Jerusalem and to the throne of the Father. Look at what it says in 3, 5, and 6. I will never blot his name out of the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and His angels.

Jesus Christ will take you and introduce you and claim you and acknowledge you by name before God the Father in heaven and before all of God's holy angels as an overcomer. He who has an ear, pay attention. Revelation 3 verse 12, Jesus says, I am coming quickly.

I am coming suddenly. Hold on to what you have so that no one will take your crown. Him who overcomes, I will make a pillar in the temple of my God.

Never again will I leave it. 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.

What an honor. You have these holiest and highest names written on you. You are inextricably and eternally bound to those things.

You represent them. You belong to them. They never leave from you.

This is the equivalent of cherubim and seraphim. They are inextricably linked to the presence, the power, and the glory of God. You can never think about the cherubim and the seraphim without thinking of the holy throne and the fire and the faces and the wings and the just ineffable greatness of God's immediate presence.

That's what this reward is. Listen to what the Spirit says. Revelation 3.21. Remember Revelation 3.20? Memorize that, right? Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

Many men hear my voice. Open the door. I will come in and share a meal with him and he with me.

Then 21. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne. You can't get any better than ruling with Christ on his throne.

Just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. Once again, not just dominion over the nations, but with Christ sitting right next to him. People have often imagined what it must have been like to be one of the disciples and to travel with Jesus to see him do his miracles and to listen to him teach and to be able to ask him questions and to overhear his prayers to the Father and to experience his personal presence on earth.

That pales into insignificance next to these overcomer opportunities. And they are not impossible. They're not for the Billy Grahams and the Apostle Pauls.

This is for you. If you have an ear, this is for you and me. God hasn't put it as an unattainable publisher's clearinghouse likelihood of somebody showing up with a big check.

Any of us with no effort on our part, no energy on our part, it's not hard. It is a matter of accepting and availing ourselves of God's grace, God's strength, God's resources. God will do it all.

You just have to be willing. You just have to want it. Be transformed.

Be renewed. Be made righteous. Be qualified.

Be motivated. God will motivate us. God will encourage us.

God will strengthen us. I will strengthen thee. Yea, I will help thee.

Yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. God's mighty right hand of righteousness will uphold us if we just commit our way to him. He will secure our steps.

He will light our way. He will sustain us through trials. You have needed patience, momentary light, affliction, working for us an eternal weight of glory.

That's what these overcomer things are. I already talked about Philippians 3, 10 and 11, the special resurrection. If you want details on that, read Jody's article, Reigning with Christ.

We've talked about that. And he wraps up with a strong motivation in that chapter for so doing. But the Lord Jesus says, many will come and say, Lord, Lord, and be disappointed.

We prophesied in your name. We cast out demons in your name. We've done many wonders in your name.

And then I will declare to them, verse 23, Matthew 7, I never knew you. A lot of things done in his name. Depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.

This is the opposite of doing the will of God. Lawlessness. What is lawlessness? What did Jesus say in 7 through 12? Ask, seek and knock.

Whatever you want men to do to you, do to them. This is the law and the prophets. Love God, love one another.

If you're not doing that, or if you have deceived yourself into thinking you're doing it, but you're not, depart from me, you who practice lawlessness. You didn't really love the Lord your God because your love has not manifested itself in action. I saw some little fluffy piece of entertainment where family gathered around the Christmas tree and the middle child, there was no present under the tree with his name on it.

Everybody else got a present and he didn't. Well, it's pretty hard to convince somebody that you love them if you spaced their present under the tree. It's not like, oh, it's in the closet or, I mean, nobody gave a thought.

Nobody said, what is he like? What would make him, you know, glad to open it on Christmas day? To be overlooked because people are busy and engaged in other things and distracted. And here on Christmas morning, nothing with Pete's name on it. Does his family love him? If you ask him, oh, of course.

But in practice, you know, that kind of catastrophic failure means you say you love them, but if you really loved them, you would have thought of them at the appropriate time and taken the appropriate action to make them feel loved and know that they're loved and be able to reciprocate love. So this is what's on the line. This is what Jesus is talking about.

What is those who practice lawlessness? Those who say Lord, Lord, but their heart's somewhere else. Their time investment is somewhere else. Their God is somewhere else.

I get my life satisfaction not from knowing that I'm pleasing God in heaven, but I'm pleasing myself. I am having a good time. I am enjoying whatever it is I'm doing.

Well, you have your reward. That's what scripture says. If you're living for the moment, if you're living for stimulation, if you're living for entertainment, if you're living for distraction, that's what you get.

And that's all you get. And you're going to be in the darkness, which is outside. And it is a sobering negative outcome.

And I'm not making this up. It's what the Bible says. Everybody will not be happy over there.

And I'm telling you from the scriptures, we have a warning from the mouth of the Lord Jesus himself. Depart from me, you who practice lawlessness. You're not in the new Jerusalem.

You're not in the environs of light. You are out in the nations with others of like mind. And it's not a particularly happy place.

Bible doesn't say all of the kingdom of the Father is going to be happy. There's healing that is needed. Tree of life leaves have to go out for the healing of these nations.

I don't know about you. I don't want to live in those nations. I don't want to be the kind of person that has to live in those nations.

I want to be in the new Jerusalem. I want the Lord Jesus to be glad he died for me. I want a white stone with a new name.

I want hidden manna. I want to sit with Christ. I want to be able to ask him questions and to be able to do things that he needs done and please him and his Father.

Be introduced to the Father himself by name. Not even a sorry nickname, but a real name. This is Shmuel.

And not be afraid. It's possible for all of us. The Lord Jesus calls us to it here in Matthew chapter 7. Well, we've already, I think, covered these, hearing the sayings of mine and doing them.

Wise man building his house on the rock. Rains descend. Floods come.

Winds blow and beat on the house. It does not fall. It is founded on the rock.

The wise man builds his house. This takes effort. It takes time.

It takes materials. It takes knowledge. If you hear these sayings and do not do them, notice, does them in verse 24, does not do them in verse 26.

This is all about what you do, not what you believe, not what you hear, not that you heard this Bible class. What have you done now that you've heard it? If you do not do these sayings of the Lord Jesus, the rain descends, the floods come, the winds blow and beat on the house. It fell and great was its fall.

Doesn't say that house is ever rebuilt. You got somebody sitting in the wet sand with no house. So it was when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his teaching for he taught them as one having authority, not as the scribes.

Jesus knows what he's talking about. He is warning us. We are warned.

We are encouraged. We see the solution to this problem very clearly. We've met the enemy and he is us.

All we need to do is ensure that we dedicate ourselves to the Romans 12, 1 and 2 commitment. Present ourselves, holding acceptable to God. It's reasonable.

It's not hard. Be not conformed, be transformed and we will know the good and acceptable and perfect will of God and then we can do it. Father, thank you for the truth of your word.

Thank you for the clear, unambiguous presentation of the extent of your grace and the equipping that you can do for us, the provision of power and guidance to accomplish all of these things and in accomplishing it through your power and through your grace, the glory for the results is simply a reflection of yours. We pray that God the Holy Spirit will impress these things on our hearts in the days ahead and as we face the distractions of the holiday season, may we be ever mindful of our assignment as representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ every waking moment of the day. We pray these things in Jesus' name.

Amen.