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## **Finish Well**

### **Series: Divided Heart, Divided Nation**

#### **The Village Church at Shell Point**

#### **Evening Service**

**November 17, 2024**

#### **I. Solomon's Sad Story**

- A. Here we are at the end of Solomon's story
  - 1. Up til now – exciting, encouraging
- B. **Positive**
  - 1. Ascent to the throne
    - a. During the dying days of David
    - b. David was reminded of his promise
    - c. David's made the arrangement to have Solomon king
    - d. Anointing of Solomon was vis a vis Adonijah's challenge to be king as
  - 2. Solomon cleans house
    - a. Adonijah is killed for seeking an angle to claim throne
    - b. Abiathar is dismissed as priest
    - c. Joab is killed
    - d. Shimei is restricted, then killed for violating restriction
  - 3. God appears to Solomon at Gibeon
    - a. Solomon asks for wisdom and discernment to rule God's people equitably
    - b. God impressed with Solomon's request – hadn't asked for wealth and honor
    - c. God promises wisdom plus wealth and honor
    - d. Example of Solomon's wisdom
      - (1) Adjudication between two women vying for same infant
  - 4. Solomon's religious life seemed strong
    - a. Sacrifices before ark; grand celebrations
    - b. Even before the temple was built
  - 5. Administrative life even stronger
    - a. Highly organized administration – appointment of officials, priests
  - 6. Extraordinary temple building
    - a. Temple construction
      - (1) Help of Hiram who provided materials and skilled laborers
    - b. Remarkable description of building process
      - (1) Sanctuaries
      - (2) Ornate carvings, gold overlays
      - (3) Furnishings
    - c. Duration – 7 ½ years

- d. Ark brought to Holy of Holies
- e. Temple was dedicated
- f. Prayer of dedication
  - (1) Model prayer!
  - (2) Rooted in promises of God
  - (3) Recognition of repentance
  - (4) Pleas for forgiveness
  - (5) Seeking for justice
  - (6) Recognition of discipline of God
  - (7) Concern for foreigner
- g. Glorious occasion of blessing for all Israel
  - (1) Worship once again centralized for all God's people in Jerusalem
  - (2) God recognized the temple as His own dwelling with Israel; accepted sacrifices by consuming them with fire
- 7. Building of his own house
  - a. Same kind of care as temple
  - b. 13 years
- 8. God appeared 2<sup>nd</sup> time
  - a. Reestablished Davidic promises
  - b. Established conditions for fulfillment
    - (1) Covenant faithfulness required
- 9. Other building projects
  - a. Millo – a large supporting structure fortifying either the palace or the temple mount
  - b. Cities – storage for military equipment and personnel
  - c. Ships
- C. God's stipulations to Solomon
  - 1. Prophetic word – keep commandments
    - a. Promised to dwell among Israel
    - b. Carry out the Davidic promises
- D. **Negative**
  - 1. Hint of an issue – marriage to Pharaoh's daughter
  - 2. Root of later problems – forced labor required to fulfill building projects
    - a. Did not enforce slavery on Israelites
    - b. But did conscript Israelites in various tasks just as Samuel said the king would
    - c. Set the stage for disloyalty among tribes other than Judah (politics!)
- E. Time frame for the glories of Solomon
  - 1. Began temple building after power consolidation
    - a. About 4 years into his ascendancy
    - b. Temple – 7 years
    - c. Other building – 13 years
  - 2. Total – about 24 years

3. 1 Kings 11.42 – Solomon reigned 40 years
    - a. We have about 16 years unaccounted for
- F. **Things fall apart**
1. Seeds for his collapse – sown years earlier
    - a. Marriage with pagan woman
    - b. Accumulation of wealth
      - (1) Gifts of God – used for his own interests
  2. Appears that he shares an issue with David
    - a. David fell into sin with Bathsheba after he was no longer fighting any wars
    - b. Relaxed state of affairs – time on his hands
    - c. Army was off fighting some skirmish; David wasn't needed
    - d. Hanging around; saw Bathsheba
    - e. One thing led to another; resulted in adultery, murder
  3. Solomon was also finished his major tasks
    - a. Temple building
    - b. Other building projects
    - c. Had time on his hands
      - (1) Have to have time on hands with 700 wives!
    - d. No longer consumed with God-driven works – had time to dabble, experiment with wives interests – idolatry!
  4. **Once thing not shared with David – repentance**
    - a. David was a great sinner; even greater repentor
    - b. Don't ever get that impression with Solomon
- G. **1 Kings 11:1–8 (ESV) —**
1. 1 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women,
  2. 2 from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love.
  3. 3 He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart.
  4. 4 For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.
  5. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.
  6. 6 So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done.
  7. 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem.
  8. 8 And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.

- H. God had specifically prohibited associating with foreigners – danger of **Idolatry**
1. Exodus – prior to wilderness wanderings
  2. Deuteronomy – again prior to entering promised land
  3. God had commanded the destruction of the idols
    - a. Solomon was actually building them!
  4. Happened when Solomon was old
    - a. Mid-life crisis???
    - b. Not an outright rejection of God
    - c. No longer wholly devoted to God (not whole-hearted)
  5. Strikes close to home – family member, age 79, takes up with man of 72 outside of marriage several years after death of husband
    - a. Thought she was Christian
    - b. Shared scriptural injunctions against those actions; implications regarding love for God
    - c. “Can’t I love \_\_\_\_\_ and God too?”
  6. Technical name – **Syncretism**
  7. God called his actions evil
    - a. Not following the Lord fully – as David had done
  8. Interesting – following the Lord fully does not mean perfectly
    - a. David had sinned – more than once!
    - b. But he always repented genuinely
    - c. No such repentance for Solomon
  9. Did all of this to please foreign wives
- I. **1 Kings 11:9–13** (ESV) —
1. 9 And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice
  2. 10 and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods. But he did not keep what the LORD commanded.
  3. 11 Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, “Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant.
  4. 12 Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son.
  5. 13 However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen.”
- J. God’s response – angry
1. Heart had turned away
  2. Solomon had many advantages
    - a. God appeared to him twice!
      - (1) How often has he appeared to you?
    - b. Explicit commandments established in the second appearance
    - c. Not to mention all the instruction he received from his father
  3. God’s response shows grace

- a. Won't take the kingdom away from him during his lifetime
- b. Will leave one tribe (actually two with Benjamin) under his son
- c. Will do these things for the sake of his father David
- 4. God then raises up adversaries
  - a. Natural, dating back to David and Joab's times
  - b. Fueled by the seeds of disloyalty planted by Solomon
- K. Picture we have is of one who started so well, seemed to be progressing so well, apparently accomplishing much
  - 1. But who didn't finish well
  - 2. In his old age
    - a. Squandered his religious advantages
    - b. Forsook the commandments of God
    - c. Sowed seeds for the destruction of the united kingdom that he labored so long to achieve
    - d. Essentially laid the foundation for the destruction of all that he had built
      - (1) Temple
      - (2) Palace complex
      - (3) All of Jerusalem

## II. Other Old Testament Sad Stories

- A. **Eli**
  - 1. Seemed a godly priest at one point
    - a. Priest to whom Samuel had been entrusted by Hannah
    - b. Had the discernment to know when God was calling Samuel
  - 2. Succumbed to the benefits provided by his corrupt sons
    - a. His temptation seemed to revolve around a love for food
  - 3. Ended up dying when the ark of the covenant was captured by Philistines
    - a. His two sons died in the capture
      - (1) Had been prophesied to Eli by a man of God years earlier
    - b. Eli fell off his seat; excessive weight killed him
  - 4. Started well – didn't finish well
- B. **Jonah**
  - 1. Actually Jonah did start well
    - a. Ran in the opposite direction from God's command
    - b. God wanted him to go East to Ninevah; preach to pagans
    - c. Jonah went west
  - 2. Converted in the belly of the fish
    - a. Went east; preached to Ninevah
    - b. City was converted!
  - 3. Disgusted Jonah
    - a. Hated the wicked Ninevites
    - b. "I knew you would do this..."
    - c. "Just kill me!"
    - d. Sat on hill overlooking the city hoping God would destroy it

- e. God provided a shade plant for Jonah
    - (1) Jonah was happy about that
  - f. Then God sent a worm to kill it
    - (1) Jonah was angry about that
  - g. God used it as an object lesson to teach Jonah
4. **Jonah 4:9–11** (ESV) —
- a. 9 But God said to Jonah, “Do you do well to be angry for the plant?” And he said, “Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.”
  - b. 10 And the LORD said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night.
  - c. 11 And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”
5. Then the story ends!
- a. Not a good finish – at least as far as we can tell

### III. **Old Testament Finishers**

#### A. **Abraham**

- 1. Started well; wasn't perfect
- 2. Made sure his lineage would continue; made sure Isaac took a wife from his own descendants
- 3. Died a ripe old age – satisfied
- 4. Finished well

#### B. **Joseph**

- 1. Started well
- 2. Subject to remarkable circumstances
  - a. Sold by brothers into slavery
  - b. Rose to prominence in Potiphar's house in Egypt
  - c. Went back to prison – falsely accused
  - d. Again back to prominence as Pharaoh's chief administrator
- 3. In position to provide for his family during famine
  - a. Went through difficult time of reacquaintance with his brothers
- 4. **Genesis 50:24–25** (ESV) —
  - a. 24 And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”
  - b. 25 Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.”

#### C. **Moses**

- 1. Started well – a little too well
  - a. Ended up exiled in Midian for forty years
- 2. Went back to Egypt; brought people out of bondage
- 3. Moses died a ripe old age as well

- a. Finished well
  - b. One sin kept him from the Promised Land
  - c. But God took him up on Mt Nebo in Moab to view the Promised Land
  - d. In one of the OT most tender moments – Moses died and God Himself buried him
4. Abraham finished well
- D. **Joshua**
- 1. Started well – Moses’ trusted lieutenant
  - 2. Took Israel into Promised Land
  - 3. Served as judge of Israel all his life
  - 4. **Joshua 24:29–31** (ESV) —
    - a. 29 After these things Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being 110 years old.
    - b. 30 And they buried him in his own inheritance at Timnath-serah, which is in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash.
    - c. 31 Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the LORD did for Israel.
  - 5. Joshua finished well
- E. Certainly Solomon knew the stories of all these saints
- 1. Plenty of examples of those who finished well, and who finished poorly
  - 2. Solomon was left, not just with instructions, commandments and warning, but with biographical examples

#### IV. **New Testament on Finishing**

##### A. **Examples**

##### 1. **Jesus**

##### a. **John 5:36** (ESV) —

(1) 36 But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.

##### b. **John 8:28–29** (ESV) —

(1) 28 So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.

(2) 29 And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.”

##### c. **John 17:1–12** (ESV) —

(1) 1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,

- (2) 2 since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.
- (3) 3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
- (4) 4 I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.
- (5) 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.
- (6) 6 “I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.
- (7) 7 Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you.
- (8) 8 For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.
- (9) 9 I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.
- (10) 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.
- (11) 11 And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.
- (12) 12 While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

d. Jesus on the cross – “It is finished”

2. Paul

a. 2 Timothy 4:5–8 (ESV) —

- (1) 5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.
- (2) 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.
- (3) 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
- (4) 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

b. Extraordinary what Paul went through to get to that point

c. 2 Corinthians 11:23–29 (ESV) —



- (1) 23 Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death.
- (2) 24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.
- (3) 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea;
- (4) 26 on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers;
- (5) 27 in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.
- (6) 28 And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.
- (7) 29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?

d. But he finished

3. **Peter**

a. Early bravado

- (1) **John 13:37** (ESV) — 37 Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”
- (2) Jesus then predicted his denial

b. **Luke 22:31–34** (ESV) —

- (1) 31 “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,
- (2) 32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”
- (3) 33 Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.”
- (4) 34 Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”

c. **John 21:15–19** (ESV) —

- (1) 15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.”
- (2) 16 He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.”
- (3) 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the

third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

- (4) 18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.”
- (5) 19 (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

B. **Instruction**

- 1. By and large, the scriptures are much more concerned about how we finish than about how we start
- 2. **Gospels**
- 3. **Luke 14:25–35** (ESV) —
  - a. 25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them,
  - b. 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.
  - c. 27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.
  - d. 28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?
  - e. 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,
  - f. 30 saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’
  - g. 31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?
  - h. 32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.
  - i. 33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.
  - j. 34 “Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?
  - k. 35 It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”
- 4. **Matthew 13:3–9** (ESV) —
  - a. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow.
  - b. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.

- c. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil,
  - d. 6 but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.
  - e. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.
  - f. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
  - g. 9 He who has ears, let him hear.”
5. **Matthew 13:18–23** (ESV) —
- a. 18 “Hear then the parable of the sower:
  - b. 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.
  - c. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy,
  - d. 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.
  - e. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.
  - f. 23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”
6. **Matthew 20:1–16** (ESV) —
- a. 1 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.
  - b. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.
  - c. 3 And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace,
  - d. 4 and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’
  - e. 5 So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same.
  - f. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’
  - g. 7 They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’
  - h. 8 And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’

- i. 9 And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.
- j. 10 Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius.
- k. 11 And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house,
- l. 12 saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’
- m. 13 But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’
- n. 14 Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you.
- o. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’
- p. 16 So the last will be first, and the first last.”

7. **Epistles**

8. **I Corinthians 9:24–27** (ESV) —

- a. 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.
- b. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.
- c. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.
- d. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

9. **Philippians 3:7–16** (ESV) —

- a. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.
- b. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ
- c. 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—
- d. 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,
- e. 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
- f. 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.
- g. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,
- h. 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- i. 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.
  - j. 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.
10. **2 Peter 1:5–11** (ESV) —
- a. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,
  - b. 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,
  - c. 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.
  - d. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - e. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.
  - f. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.
  - g. 11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
11. **Revelation**
12. Ephesian Church – **Revelation 2:7** (ESV) — 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’
13. Smyrna Church – **Revelation 2:11** (ESV) — 11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’
14. Pergamum Church – **Revelation 2:17** (ESV) — 17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.’
15. Thyatira Church – **Revelation 2:26–28** (ESV) — 26 The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, 27 and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. 28 And I will give him the morning star.
16. Sardis Church – **Revelation 3:5** (ESV) — 5 The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.
17. Philadelphia Church – **Revelation 3:12** (ESV) — 12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and 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 from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

18. Laodicea Church – **Revelation 3:21** (ESV) — 21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

V. Conclusion

- A. Is that enough example and instruction to go on?
  1. Are you willing to cast all the gifts and blessings aside by turning aside from the way you know is the path of Jesus?
  2. What are you willing to go through to be faithful to Jesus?
    - a. Ostracism
    - b. Persecution
    - c. Loss of friends
    - d. Rejection by family