**Because He Reigns – Rev. 2: 17**

**Focal Truth: Believers in heaven will be given new names & welcomed into heaven**

Here on the earth believers live in obscurity as aliens & strangers in the world

Here on the earth believers experience rejection, ridicule, loneliness & are treated with contemptful insignificance in the world

Believers in heaven experience the eternal joy of a new identity & heavenly welcome from the Lord Jesus Christ!

**When we all get to heaven what a day of rejoicing that will be! When we all see Jesus, we’ll sing and shout the victory!**

**Observations**

1. **Because He Reigns – believer - overcomers in heaven will receive personal honor 2:17**

*I will give him a white stone*

1. Lord Jesus promises to every believer – overcomer **personal honor** – I will give him a white stone
2. The white stone in the days of Rome was awarded to the winners of athletic contests.
3. The white stone had the name of the winner engraved on the stone.
4. The white stone provided a life – time of access to all special royal events in Rome
5. **Every Believer** in heaven will experience personal honor from the Lord Jesus Christ

***I will give him a white stone – not I will give them***

Jesus will say to believers in heaven – **Well Done!**

What a wonderful day when every believer who enters heaven receives personal honor from the Lord Jesus – **a white stone of honor & a word of praise – Well done!**

1. **Because He Reigns – believer - overcomers in heaven will receive personal recognition 2:17**

*I will give them a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it*

1. Lord Jesus promises to every believer – overcomer personal recognition – *I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it*
2. Believers will be given new personal heavenly names – *a new name written on the stone*
3. Believer’s earthly names of birth will be replaced by a new eternal heavenly name

Earthly names speak of our **birth into sin & lives of sinful pride**

Earthly names speak of our **earthly sinful father’s, mother’s, brother’s & sisters**

Heavenly names speak of our **eternal heavenly relationship to God the Father**

Heavenly names speak of our **identity as overcoming believers** – **children of God**

Heavenly names speak of our **significance to God the Father**

Heavenly names speak of our **personal intimacy with the Lord Jesus – secret name**

1. God gave new names to those who believed & to believing Israel in the Millennial reign of Christ

Abram – Abraham – Sarai – Sarah; Jacob – Israel; Simon – Peter

Isa. 62:2 – ff - *the nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; and you will be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord will designate.*

*It will no longer be said to you, Forsaken. Not to your land will it any longer be said, Desolate, but you will be called, My delight is in her, and your land Married, for the Lord delights in you and to Him you land will be married*

1. Believer’s heavenly name is a “**personal love name**” from the Lord Jesus – *the sheep hear his voice, he calls his own sheep by name – John 10:3*

**Consider**

1. Believers have a **specific new name reserved for them in heaven**
2. Believers have a **specific secret new name given to them by the Lord Jesus**
3. Believers have a **specific** **eternal new name**
4. Believers have an **eternally significant name**

1 John 3:2 – *beloved now we are children of God, and it has not appeared yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him because we will see Him just as He is.*

*1 Cor. 13:12 - For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known*

**Oh, the joy of heaven to be fully known & loved personally be Lord Jesus!**

1. **Because He Reigns – believer - overcomers in heaven will receive a personal welcome into heaven 2 Pet. 1:11**

*for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you*

*then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – NLT*

1. Believers in heaven have an inheritance as children of God **reserved in heaven**

1 Pet. 1:4 – to obtain an inheritance imperishable, undefiled, will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you

1. Believers in heaven received a grand entrance of welcoming love **reserved in heaven** 2 Pet. 1:11 *for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you*

**Consider**

1. Believers who have walked by faith in holiness are **welcomed into heaven** 2 P. 1:4 – 8
2. Believers are welcomed with an **abundant entrance into heaven** 1:11
3. Believers are welcomed with a **prepared welcome in heaven** 1:11
4. Believers are welcomed with a **complete welcome in heaven** 1:11

**Things to Remember and Do**

1. **Heaven is a believer’s eternal, personal experience of delightful pleasure, joy, significance, & love for & from the Lord Jesus Christ**
2. **Heaven is for all believer’s an eternal corporate experience of knowing, seeing & worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ in all His glory – John 17:3, 24**

*This is eternal life – to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth – 17:3*

*Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began! – 17:24*

1. **Believers will be welcomed into heaven with joyful honor & recognition as overcomers – Matt. 25:21**

*Well done good and faithful servant,* ***enter into the joy of your Master***

***He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it. Rev. 2:17***

***To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!***