

- 2) Smyrna: "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." (Revelation 2:11, ESV)
- 3) Pergamum: "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." (Revelation 2:17, ESV)
- 4) Thyatira: "The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, 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." (Revelation 2:26–27, ESV)
- 5) Sardis: "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." (Revelation 3:5, ESV)
- 6) Philadelphia: "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." (Revelation 3:12, ESV)
- 7) Laodicea: "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." (Revelation 3:21, ESV)

B. If I love heaven....

- 1) I will not allow materialism to dominate my life (Matt. 6:19-21).
- 2) I will not compromise my soul for a momentary temptation (Matt. 16:26; Heb. 11:26).
- 3) I will keep focus on my pilgrimage and look forward to the "heavenly city" (Heb. 11:13-16).
- 4) I will strive to endure any temptation or trial faithfully (Jas. 1:12).

Conclusion

1. The Bible is clear that heaven is a present reality and our citizenship is there. We are burdened by various things in this life. It is easier knowing our earthly sojourn will come to an end and we will be with the Lord.
  - a. God has prepared an eternal dwelling and guaranteed it (2 Cor. 5:1-5).
  - b. "So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him." (2 Corinthians 5:9, ESV)
2. Love for heaven is produced by our longing to be with God and his people.