

Observations from the Seven Churches of Asia

- A. The language of these letters clearly indicates the individual and personal responsibility of man to God.
1. Each individual and congregation must answer for its own sins.
 2. The principle that “God is no respecter of persons” ([Acts 10:34](#)) is demonstrated and verified.
 3. The principle that “each one of us shall give account of himself to God” ([Romans 14:12](#)) is demonstrated and verified.
- B. Each letter closes with one or more promises on the condition that the individual “overcome.” Logically implied — these rewards would be lost if one failed to overcome.
1. This also implies individual ability either to fail or to overcome.
 2. We gain by obedience and lose through disobedience.
 3. In these conditional promises we have the strongest possible argument that Christians can so live as to be lost eternally. These conditional promises refute the false doctrine “Once in grace, always in grace.”
- C. In order that the full force of this argument on the possibility of apostasy may appear, note the rewards that may be lost by failing to overcome. (Define apostasy)
1. Privilege to “eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. (2:7) **Ephesus.**
 2. To receive a “crown of life”~ and not be “hurt of the second death.” (2:10-11) **Smyrna.**
 3. To receive the “hidden manna,” “white stone,” and “new name.” (2:17) **Pergamos.**
 4. To receive authority to rule the nations — (2:26-27) **Thyatira.**
 5. To be “arrayed in white garments,” not have name blotted “out of the book of life,” and be confessed before God and the angels. (3:5) **Sardis.**
 6. To be made a “pillar in the temple of my God” and have the names of God and Christ written upon him. (3:12) **Philadelphia.**
 7. To be allowed to sit with Christ in his throne. (3:12) **Laodicea.**
- D. To be lost all one has to do is nothing.

E. “I know thy works” — Jesus knows it all.