

The Three Eternal Destinies #115 Works Salvation for Christians

Jn 5:24,29 — Can we determine whether the *Second Death* and the *Rest of the Dead* in Rev 20:5-6 pertain to *both* the Edah and the nations?

It is for certain that the second death of the nations has no power over the Holy who have already passed out of death and into life. They have been judged already in both cases — those who believe and those who do not believe.

In Jn 5:24 the believers have been baptized into Messiah's death, so they have died, but do not come into the judgment seat of Heb 9:27 to be judged according to their works as all the nations will, as long as they have not rejected Messiah (Jn 3:18). It's easy to make Rev 20:5-6 apply to the nations, the *rest of the dead*, verse 5, and the *second death*, verse 6. But also it's easy to apply it to the Edah, as in Rev 2:11 and 3:5. The first resurrection is the Overcomers who are blessed and holy that the second death has no power over them (verse 6). The *rest of the dead* would then be those of the Edah who did not overcome. One can divide the Saints into two classifications in Dan 12:1 — those who have everlasting (age-lasting) life and those who have age-lasting discipline. There are many such scriptures which substantiate that if we overcome we will reign with Him in the next age (Rev 2:26-27; 3:4,5,21).

Works Salvation

Christians unwittingly advocate Works Salvation in Rev 2:11 and 3:5, because they say it refers to Rev 20:14-15, so unless one overcomes in this life, his name will be erased and he will go to the second death for the nations in the Eternal Age. This means that if you *don't do your works* (Rev 3:2) and if they are not perfect as the KJV says or completed as NASB says, then you will not be *worthy* (verse 4) to walk with Him in white (verse 5), and He will **blot** your name out of the Book of Life. If you are not *worthy* by your good deeds or works, you won't be *good enough* for Eternal Life and He won't confess you before His Father and before His angels. So, if their interpretation is correct, this amounts to *works salvation*. If a person does not overcome (Rev 2:11), he will be hurt by the second death, as Rev 20:6 says — the second death *will* have power over him and this is *forever and ever*. Rev 21:8 — since his name was blotted out of the Book of Life (Rev 20:12-15), he goes to the second death, as if the believer was judged worthy or unworthy of Eternal Life at the Rev 20:12 judgment, or 1,000 years earlier at the 2 Cor 5:10 judgment where Eternal Life is not the issue.

Overcome means after one is saved by Messiah's grace. So unless one subdues his enemies and takes part in Heb 10:13, ruling *over* all that keeps him from doing the works of Eph 2:10, if he does not get the victory, then Rev 2:11 says he will be hurt (#91) by the second death, since he is rejected, cast away, unapproved (#96) of Messiah (Mt 25:2). Even though one comes to Him and believes, if he doesn't measure up to his worthiness by His grace, then his name is blotted out of the Book of Life (Rev 3:5).

There were only a few in Sardis who overcame and did not defile their garments. They will have Eternal Life. The rest, according to Christians, go to the place prepared for Satan and his angels (Rev 3:4-5). So if one does not *overcome* as Rev 3:21, he will not sit with Messiah on His throne but will go to the Second Death (Rev 20:14; 21:8 and 22:18) with the rest of the filthy, unjust sinners (Rev 22:11).

Is there no chance of their washing their garments which got stained or defiled, as in Rev 22:14, since Rev 21:27; 2 Tim 2:11-13?