

New Beginnings

Reward: Revelation 2:12-17



WEST SOUND COMMUNITY CHURCH

WINTER 2020

What's in a name?

Sometimes it's just the name a Mom and Dad finally chose for their newborn or adopted child.

Sometimes it's a tribute to someone else.

Sometimes it's a proclamation about future hopes.

Sometimes it's a proclamation of power and authority...

"My name is Maximus Decimus Meridius, commander of the Armies of the North, General of the Felix Legions and loyal servant to the true emperor, Marcus Aurelius. Father to a murdered son, husband to a murdered wife. And I will have my vengeance, in this life or the next."

"I am Aragorn son of Arathorn, and am called Elessar the Elfstone, Dunadan (Dune a dine). The heir of Isildur (E seal dure) Elendil's son of Gondor. Here is the Sword that was Broken and is forged again! Will you aid me, or thwart me? Choose swiftly!"

Sometimes it's a method for announcing new truth...

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. Matthew 16:16-18

And sometimes it's a reward...

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

It is this last one I am most interested in right now. The Savior clearly says to those who victoriously remain in him there will be a day, a moment in glory, when a new name, written on a white rock, will be revealed! No one else will know that name. Just the victorious one...and of course the Lord. A special secret between just the two.

Can you even imagine such a thing? Hold on though, I'm getting too far ahead in Revelation 2:12-17...



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New Beginnings: Reward

In this new year, we're starting off with a short series about New Beginnings. Last week we learned, from Psalm 78, that our resolve to remain synched with God and his word must be ever brand-new. This week, I'd like to adjust this look just a bit so we can explore what it looks like for followers of the Savior to remain faithful in a world of madness and darkness...and what the end will hold for those who do!

Revelation 2:12-17

1st Vss. 12,13 When the world around you is engulfed in darkness keep the faith. 12,13

2nd Vss. 14-16 When the world around you is engulfed in darkness resist the pull of those who compromise.

3rd Vs. 17 When the world around you is engulfed in darkness keep your eyes turned upon Jesus.

