

SERMON

YOUR NAME AND IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Your Name and Identity in Christ

Scripture: Revelation 2:17 - *"Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it."*

Introduction (10 minutes)

Good morning, church! Today, I want to talk to you about a beautiful truth: your **name** and **identity in Christ**. There is something profound and transformative about knowing who we are in Christ. We live in a world that constantly tries to define us by external factors—our careers, accomplishments, failures, background, or even our appearance. But today, God wants to remind you that in Christ, your name and identity have eternal significance.

Our key verse today comes from Revelation 2:17, a promise from Jesus Himself: *"To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it."*

Let's take some time to break this passage down, because in these few lines, we find a powerful declaration of who we are in Christ and the eternal victory He has given us. By the end of this message, I pray you will be fully aware of the **new identity** you have in Christ and the significance of your name written on that white stone.

1. The Victorious Life in Christ (10 minutes)

The first part of Revelation 2:17 says, "*To the one who is victorious.*"

Now, who is this **victorious one**? Is it someone with perfect achievements or someone who never makes mistakes? No, it is anyone who has overcome by placing their faith in Jesus Christ.

The Bible speaks repeatedly of victory. In 1 John 5:4, we read: "*For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.*" Our **victory** comes from Christ's finished work on the cross. Jesus has already won the battle over sin, death, and the powers of darkness, and we are victorious **in Him**.

Victory doesn't mean we won't face struggles, challenges, or failures. In fact, Jesus said, "*In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world*" (John 16:33). Being victorious means that even in the face of difficulty, we **endure** with the assurance that we are overcomer through Jesus.

This victory is not about earthly success. It's about remaining faithful and connected to Christ, no matter the circumstances. In Revelation, Jesus promises this gift to those who hold on, those who keep the faith, and those who don't give in to the pressures of the world. You may face battles, but remember: in Christ, you are already victorious.

2. The Hidden Manna: Spiritual Nourishment (10 minutes)

Next, the verse says, "*I will give some of the hidden manna.*"

What does that mean? To understand this, we have to go back to the Old Testament. Manna was the bread that God provided from heaven to feed the Israelites during their time in the wilderness

(Exodus 16). It was God's provision in the desert—a miraculous sustenance to carry them through a difficult journey.

In Revelation, **hidden manna** symbolises the spiritual nourishment that Jesus gives to His followers. It represents God's supernatural provision in our lives when we trust Him. But why is it called “hidden”?

I believe this speaks to the **personal** and **intimate** sustenance that Christ provides to each of us. There are blessings and spiritual insights, hidden manna, that only you can receive in your relationship with Christ. This is about your **personal walk with Jesus**, where He nourishes your soul in ways that no one else can.

Jesus Himself said in John 6:35, *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."* In Christ, we have all we need for this journey of faith. He is our hidden manna, the **living bread** that sustains us in the desert seasons of life.

So, church, are you drawing on that hidden manna? In your moments of difficulty, are you allowing Christ to nourish your spirit? The world offers many substitutes, but only Jesus, the true Bread of Life, can provide lasting fulfilment and strength for your soul.

3. The White Stone: A Symbol of Acceptance and Honor (10 minutes)

Now let's turn to the next part of the verse, *"I will also give that person a white stone."*

What is the significance of this **white stone**? In biblical times, white stones were used in several important ways. They were often given to winners of athletic contests, symbolising **victory**. They were also

used in courts of law, where a white stone represented **acquittal** or **innocence**. Finally, a white stone could serve as an **invitation** to a special event, such as a banquet.

So, when Jesus says He will give a **white stone**, it's a powerful statement of our identity in Him. It means that:

- **We are victorious**—we are conquerors through Christ.
- **We are acquitted**—our sins are forgiven, and we stand righteous before God.
- **We are invited**—we are welcomed into God's family, invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:9).

This white stone is a **token of acceptance**. No matter what the world says about you—no matter the labels others place on you or the mistakes you've made—Jesus gives you a white stone that declares you are **accepted**, **innocent**, and **invited** into eternal fellowship with Him.

4. The New Name: Your Identity in Christ (10 minutes)

Finally, let's look at the last part of the verse: "*with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.*"

This is the most personal and intimate part of this promise. In biblical tradition, names carry great significance. When God gives someone a **new name**, it signifies a new identity and a new purpose. Think of Abram, who became Abraham, or Jacob, who became Israel. These name changes marked a transformation in their lives and destinies.

Jesus promises to give each of us a **new name**. This is a name that signifies the **new creation** we are in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*" When you accept Christ, your

identity changes. The old labels — sinner, lost, unworthy — are replaced with new names: **redeemed, loved, chosen, victorious**.

But there's something even more beautiful about this new name: it's **known only to the one who receives it**. This reflects the deep, personal relationship you have with Jesus. Your new name isn't just for public display; it's something intimate between you and Christ. It's a reflection of how **God uniquely sees you**, based on your journey with Him.

This new name is a reminder that your identity is no longer defined by the world's standards. It's not determined by your past failures or your current struggles. It's defined by the **victory** and **new life** you have in Christ.

Conclusion and Call to Response (5 minutes)

So, as we reflect on this passage from Revelation 2:17, here's what we know:

- In Christ, you are **victorious**.
- In Christ, you are **nourished** and sustained by the Bread of Life, the hidden manna.
- In Christ, you are **accepted, acquitted, and invited** into eternal fellowship, symbolised by the white stone.
- In Christ, you have a **new name** — a new identity that reflects His transformation in your life.

Today, I want you to reflect on your identity in Christ. Have you been living under old labels? Are you defining yourself by your past mistakes or what the world says about you? Jesus is offering you a new name, a new identity, that is rooted in His love, His victory, and His purpose for your life.

Let's take a moment in prayer to thank Jesus for the new name and identity He has given us and to commit ourselves to living in the fullness of that identity.

Closing Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for giving us a new name and a new identity in You. Thank You for the victory we have through Your finished work on the cross. Help us to live each day in the fullness of who we are in You, trusting that You have made all things new. Strengthen us with Your hidden manna, guide us with Your Spirit, and let our lives reflect the glory of the new name You have given us. In Your mighty name, we pray. Amen.