

The Johannine Concept of the Overcomer

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Abstract

This dissertation attempts to answer the problem of deficiency in existing literature on the overcomer concept by providing an examination of John's usage of the Greek term $\nu\iota\omicron\kappa\alpha\acute{\alpha}\alpha\omega\mu\epsilon\alpha$. More specifically, it seeks to determine that author's intended meaning of the Christian who wins and receives the eternal rewards. The study begins carrying out this objective by discussing the use of $\nu\iota\omicron\kappa\alpha\acute{\alpha}\alpha\omega\mu\epsilon\alpha$ outside Johannine writings. The purpose here is to find out whether the background of John has any bearing on his thought. The discovery is that it has. The study continues its objective by examining the Johannine passages about $\nu\iota\omicron\kappa\alpha\acute{\alpha}\alpha\omega\mu\epsilon\alpha$ and the "Antichrist." The aim here is to look at the setting and identity of this hostile figure, determine the object, time, and nature of his overcoming, and show that Antichrist's victory does not contradict the Christian overcomer concept. The study goes on to investigate the Johannine passages about $\nu\iota\omicron\kappa\alpha\acute{\alpha}\alpha\omega\mu\epsilon\alpha$ and Christ by discussing these references in light of their texts and contexts, determining the object of Christ's overcoming, and demonstrating that the victory of Christ is one in which every believer participates. The study next considers the Johannine passages about $\nu\iota\omicron\kappa\alpha\acute{\alpha}\alpha\omega\mu\epsilon\alpha$ and the Christian. This section evaluates the possible solutions to the identity of the overcomer, then gives a scriptural support for the preferred view of the overcomer, and then provides an answer to key problems an objector might use to argue against the preferred view. The study advances even one step further by ascertaining the nature of rewards connected with overcoming. The focus here is on the background, meaning, and people of the rewards as well as a related issue such as the gradation of reward. The study finally reaches its goal by summarizing the findings of the above investigations and by concluding with the thesis that the Christian overcomer in John's literature is a saved person, that every regenerate person is a winner, that all the genuinely saved will have a share in the rewards God has promised to the overcomer,

and that the real distinction among the saved is in degree, not in kind!



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