



Malvern Mashal 147



I will give you to eat of the Tree of Life
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I WILL GIVE YOU TO EAT OF THE TREE OF LIFE

From daily life to Paradise, we've got a treat in store in these codas to the Patmos series. We're going to be meditating on the powerful promises that the Lord Jesus gave John at the conclusion of His messages to the seven local churches, concerning at least some of the blessings that are awaiting those who overcome, in Paradise.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.
(Rev. 2:7)

Jesus promised the penitent thief that he would be with Him in Paradise on the very day of their deaths. (Luke 23:43) It's God's own garden, a place of flower strewn meadows, attended by all manner of delightful creatures as well as the souls of those justified and made beautiful by Christ.

If the hope of Paradise doesn't feature very high in our daily thinking could it perhaps be that we are a little too taken up by the things of this world? Wherever Christians experience real poverty and persecution – and that takes in a very high percentage of the world's believers – the hope of Paradise burns a great deal brighter in their hopes.

Even now plans are surely being made in the courts of Heaven for the great moment when Christ returns to earth in the company of His

saints, when the dwelling place of God will be with man' (Revelation 21:3) -- and this time there will be no serpent – he's long since been excluded.

Even now we are told that *Wisdom is a tree of life to those who take hold of her.* (Pvbs 3:18) When we have continual access to the Tree of Life in the midst of the Paradise of God, however, all the wisdom that comes from it will also flow through us. No wonder Jesus tells us to lay hold of His promise that *He will give the crown of life to those who remain faithful* through all threats and dangers. (Revelation 2:10-11)

Let's face it, if we had nothing to overcome in order to get to Paradise, and there were no dark forces to contend with, what would we know of God's grace in helping us to stand firm against all the physical, emotional and doctrinal assaults that the powers of darkness stir up against us?

Let's take a moment now to let His inspiration come on us firstly as to what it may mean for us to eat from the tree of life, and then to ponder how He uses even these assaults to spur us on to yet greater fruitfulness for Him so that He can place His crown on our heads.

