“And I Will Write Upon Him…”

As we continue this study, our book is becoming full of promises and understandings made by the Savior to the overcomer of sin—promises of true wealth in relationship. Highlighted are three separate promises of one theme—marking of the believer who is faithful and obedient, a theme that in this tattooed and pierced society should be quite popular.

The first part of these promises is the conditional part: If you do this—He will do that. The rewards are not handed out carte-blanche, as are programs at an outdoor theater. Just recently while accidentally watching The Biggest Loser (Teams), I cheered the commitment and drive of participants to shed the weight that was slowly killing them. As a special twist to the program, team pairs were split and offered money to the one who would compromise their team's goals by eating from a table of luscious offerings. Then the remaining team members were offered the same opportunity.

Afterward, the team pairs were brought back together and asked if they believed that their team partner took any of the temptation food. You could see the deep hurt when the offended member discovered that their partner cheated on the night before weigh-in. Then, the most successful team was rewarded phone time with family for overcoming the temptation of corn dogs, cake and pie. It is not quite the same, but only to understand a bit, the hurt we pass on when the quality He chose for us, and died that we might attain, is traded for the passing stomach desire. Stomach desire is the way I see harmful temptation—it is so irresistible to smell, feast our eyes upon and consume, yet in only a short time it becomes something none of us want to talk about. It can be about eating, drinking or any character quality of our lives.

Ownership and belonging is what each of us is all about and the marking of us is the stamp, seal and verification of it. My wife, my address, my phone number, e-mail address, social security number—all of it is my identity, my belonging. Although I did not participate in H.S. sports, I did own and wear our high school letter jacket. It wasn't decorated at all, but its colors said that I belonged at Van Horn High School. I got the ring, too, so all would know. Think about it—to be specially decorated by the Lamb of God for being a pleasure to Him because you passed the table labeled "stomach desires" knowing that it would shame His name if you didn't.
After Creation is completed, the Lamb will assume His new name and it will be the biggest news in Heaven. Imagine again being singled out, that He would choose to share it with you because as being a team member in Redemption, you didn't cheat the Cross. Not only will He share it with the one who compliments His Kingdom, but also He will write it upon that one to be carried for eternity. Think how crazy this world is about famed autographs as Abe Lincoln, Paul McCartney, Elvis and even Adolph Hitler fetch hefty prices to collectors. Next, imagine the newest and most powerful name ever heard in man's ear—that name given as a cherished brand to one who is His friend and faithful partner in righteousness and to be worn as a crown or as a Purple Heart for all to see and know.

Temptations like corn dogs and cheesecake foil the diet of well-intentioned—even dedicated dieters, just as pornography, immoral lusts, laziness, and selfish lifestyles foil the desire of Christians who want to be a pleasure to our King. A look at the reality of this promise of "honored possession and recognition" hopefully draws us to a recommitment to overcome every aspect of sin in our life. — Tom Buttram