Date: 3/21/15

Title: A White Stone with a New Name

Theme:

Object: White stones, stone collection

Text: Rev 2:17 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”’

Here Jesus makes a promise to those who overcome: He says He will give them a white stone.

And on this stone, there is a new name written which nobody knows except Jesus and the one He gives it to.

Would you like to get a white stone like that from Jesus?

Do any of you guys like to collect stones?

When I was a kid, I liked to collect stones. Not just any stones; they had to be nice stones.

And one of the stones I was always looking for was a nice white smooth stone: a lucky stone.

I brought with me this morning some rocks that I have collected. Do you want to see them? [show rock collection]

Now there is no proof that having a lucky stone in your pocket brings you good luck.

It’s just a superstition that some people believe.

But the white stone that Jesus gives you is not for good luck.

It is a stone that is given only to those who overcome.

What does it mean to overcome?

It means to love Jesus and trust in Him and never give up until the very end when He comes again.

And everyone who does that will be saved in God’s kingdom.

So what do you think we can do with the white stone with the secret name on it?

The Bible doesn’t really say, but maybe it goes along with the manna or heavenly food that Jesus promises to give us.

The Bible says that when Jesus takes us to heaven we will have a big banquet: the wedding supper of the Lamb.

And there we are going to eat heavenly food. That would be the hidden manna.

And maybe the white stone with our new name on it will be at our place at the table where Jesus wants us to sit.

Do you want a place to sit at the banquet table with a white stone and your new name on it?

Let’s be faithful to Jesus to the very end, and that’s what He’ll give us.

And I’m going to give each of you a white stone today to remind you to never give up.

Always keep loving and trusting Jesus.