“Hold fast that thou hast.”  
 Hold fast the faith, and a good conscience, which  
some, losing, have made shipwreck. Hold fast patience,  
hope, right practice. This is the contrary to the Saviour’s  
cry, ‘Repent!’ The one is the red flag, or the signal of  
danger; and the call to stop, and to back the engine.  
The other is the green flag, which bids the engineer  
proceed with his train fearlessly.  
 “That none take thy crown.”  
 What crown is intended? It is not specified, whether  
it be the crown of “life,” of “righteousness,” or of  
“glory.” But it was one conditionally destined for the  
then presiding pastor of Philadelphia. The crown  
means not a bare salvation: it is not something designed  
for all believers. Are all believers diligent? Have all  
Christians nothing to do, but to hold fast what they  
possess? The other epistles utter no uncertain sound  
on this point.  
 It might be *lost by remissness*. Let none grow slack,  
as if he had so long walked in Christ’s ways that he  
could not fall! Perseverance in service is essential to  
reward. We may lose by misconduct, a glory we had  
else won. 2 John 8.  
 There are *degrees of glory:* some will have one  
crown, some more than one, and some be without any,  
having lost it by misconduct. What is lost by one, is  
handed over to another who is worthy. Thus, the talent  
taken from the slothful servant is given to the possessor  
of ten talents.

12. “Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple  
of my God, and he shall go out no more: and I will write upon  
him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God,  
the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of the heaven  
from my God, and (I will write upon him) my new name.”  
  
 We have now arrived at the promise to the conqueror.  
On this, Hengstenberg remarks, “It is spoken, not of