

VICTORY THROUGH OVERCOMING  
(REVELATION)

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Jesus Christ Overcame The World. (*John 16:33*)

1. He is:

- a. The Master of the mighty.
- b. Captain of the conquerors.
- c. Head of the heroes.
- d. Leader of the legislators.
- e. Overcomer of the overcomers.
- f. Governor of the governors.
- g. Prince of princes.
- h. King of kings and Lord of lords.

2. He overcame:

- a. The world by a sinless life. (*cf. John 8:46; 2 Cor. 5:21*)
- b. The flesh by His struggle in Gethsemane. (*Luke 22:39-46; Heb. 5:7-9*)
- c. Sin by keeping the law (*cf. 1 John 3:4; 1 Cor. 15:56*), and by becoming a sacrifice for sin. (*Rom. 8:3; Heb. 9:26*)
- d. Satan by trusting God's word. (*Matt. 4:3-10; Heb. 2:14*)
- e. Death by resurrection. (*Matt. 28:6*)

B. We Too Must Be Overcomers.

- 1. Read *Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21.*

These admonitions to overcome were written to the seven churches in Asia. (Rev. 1:11) What was true for one church is true for every church. (cf. Paul's statement 1 Cor. 4:17)

2. Overcoming defined:

- a. To be victorious; to conquer; to have mastery over.
- b. 1 John 4:4; 5:4-5.
- c. Diligence is required by those who would overcome. (2 Pet. 1:10)

II. AIM.

- A. To Expose The Central Message Of The Book Of Revelation Which Is "Victory In Jesus."
- B. To Encourage Christians To Overcome Specific Evils Which Would Cause Them To Lose Their Crown Of Life.

III. OUTLINE.

A. SOME THINGS WE MUST OVERCOME.

1. Lovelessness. (Rev. 2:1-7) Church at Ephesus.

- a. What is first love? Note the Ephesians response to the gospel. (Acts 19:1-20)  
First love is extravagant. (Matt. 26:6-13)
- b. To love is to serve. (cf. John 13) Jesus and "the towel." (cf. John 14:15; 15:14; 1 Cor. 16:22)

2. Fear. (Rev. 2:8-11) Church at Smyrna.

- a. The word fear (φοβέω = *phobeō*) means terror, dismay, thus causes flight. This type of fear could cause another type (δειλία = *deilia*) which is moral cowardice and would cause one to become untrustworthy. (Rev. 21:8 - "fearful")
- b. Matt. 10:28; 1 John 4:17, 18.
- c. 2 Kings 6:8-20 cf. 1 John 4:4. Fear not! God is with us.

3. Compromising spirit. (*Rev. 2:12-17*) Church at Pergamum.
  - a. The doctrine of Balaam (*ver. 14*) is that of compromise. (*cf. Num. 22*)
  - b. The easy way. (*Jude 11 cf. 2 Pet. 2:15*) "Loved the hire of wrong doing." "Balaams" would sell out if the price of the consequence was not so high.
  
4. Worldliness. (*Rev. 2:18-29*) Church at Thyatira.
  - a. *1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4.*
  - b. Lack of discipline. "Elders beware."
  - c. We are in the world, but not of it. (*1 Cor. 5:9-10*)
  - d. Be ye holy. (*Eph. 1:4; 2 Cor. 7:1*)
  
5. Lack of growth. (*Rev. 3:1-6*) Church at Sardis.
  - a. God demands His people to grow and mature spiritually.
  - b. *Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Pet. 2:1-2; Col. 2:6-7; Eph. 4:1; 1 John 1:7.*
  - c. There are far too many spiritual "pigmyes" and "dwarfs" in the family of God.
  
6. Denying Christ's name and keeping not His word. (*Rev. 3:7-13*) Church at Philadelphia.
  - a. *Matt. 10:32-33; 1 Thess. 2:13.*
  - b. *Psalms 119:11, 97, 103.*
  - c. We must hold fast the word of truth and never be ashamed or fearful to own our Lord.
  - d. Will you deny the name of:
    - 1) The Pearl from paradise?
    - 2) The Gem from the gloryland?
    - 3) Life's strongest Cord?

- 4) Light's clearest Ray?
  - 5) Purity's whitest Peak?
  - 6) Jesus - the name above every name?  
(Acts 4:12; Phil. 2:9-11)
  - e. In His birth is our significance.
    - 1) In His life is our example.
    - 2) In His cross is our redemption.
    - 3) In His resurrection is our hope.
  - f. Is He your Lord? Do you love to call Him Lord? Will you praise His name in any place, among any people?
7. Lukewarmness and trusting in wordly riches.  
(Rev. 3:14-22) Church at Laodicea.
- a. Matt. 6:24; Mark 10:24.
  - b. 1 Tim. 6:17-19.
  - c. Explain lukewarmness.
- B. HOW MAY ONE OVERCOME? (Rev. 12:11)
- 1. "Because of the blood of the Lamb."
    - a. Heb. 10:4, 19-20.
    - b. Rev. 7:14 cf. Acts 20:28.
    - c. Eph. 1:7; Rev. 1:5 cf. Rom. 6:1-6.
    - d. 1 John 1:7. Note that the word *cleanseth* is a continuous action verb. It keeps on cleansing as one keeps on walking in the light.
  - 2. "Because of the word of their testimony."
    - a. The "sword of the Spirit," i.e. the word of God, is the Christians' only offensive weapon. (Eph. 6:17 cf. Heb. 4:12)
      - 1) Jesus overcame Satan with the word.  
(Matt. 4:3-11)

2) First century Christians overcame in the same way. (*Rev. 6:9; Acts 8:4; Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 1:16*)

- b. The word testimony, Greek μαρτυρίας = *marturias*, comes from the root word *martureō* and is translated witness, report and give charge.
- c. Our responsibility is to go everywhere and preach the word. (*Matt. 28:18-20*) Let's do it!
- d. It is impossible to overcome without the word of God going forth. God's word will accomplish its purpose. (*Isa. 55:11*) Remember God's word is dynamite! (*Rom. 1:16*) The word *power* in this verse is δύναντις = *dunamis*, from which we get our words dynamite, dynamic, etc.

3. "They loved not their life even unto death."

- a. This is the price of total commitment. All of Christ and none of self. (*Gal. 2:20*)
- b. *Rev. 2:10; 6:9.*
- c. *Acts 20:24; Luke 14:26-27.*

#### C. RESULT OF OVERCOMING.

- 1. Eternal peace. (*Rev. 2:7*)
- 2. Eternal life. (*Rev. 2:11*)
- 3. Eternal victory and freedom. (*Rev. 2:17 cf. Rom. 8:37*)
- 4. Eternal authority. (*Rev. 2:26*)
- 5. Eternal purity and recognition. (*Rev. 3:5*)
- 6. Eternal nobility. (*Rev. 3:12*)
- 7. Eternal reign. (*Rev. 3:21*)
- 8. Christ Jesus is our Lord; our Owner. (*Psalms 24:1; 1 Cor. 6:20*)
  - a. He created us.

- b. He bought us.
  - c. We are His workmanship. (*Eph. 2:10*)
  - d. In Him we are victorious! (*Rev. 21:7; 17:14*)
    - 1) The called.
    - 2) The chosen.
    - 3) The faithful.
- } These are the overcomers.

V. CONCLUSION.

- A. In A World Embroiled With War, Hatred And Many Tribulations, Christians Know That Christ Has Overcome For Them. Therefore, They Are To Be Of Good Cheer And At Peace. (*John 16:33; Phil. 4:6-7*)
- B. Those Who Are In Christ, The Called, The Chosen And The Faithful, Are More Than Conquerors Through Him Who Loved Us And Overcame The World For Us. (*cf. Rom. 8:32-39*)
- C. VICTORY THROUGH OVERCOMING IS THE PROMISE OF THE BOOK OF *REVELATION*. BELIEVE IT! ACCOMPLISH IT!