

INTRODUCTION: The Biblical warning.

Rev 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that **overcometh** will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Rev 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that **overcometh** shall not be hurt of the second death.

Rev 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that **overcometh** will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Rev 2:26 And he that **overcometh**, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Rev 3:5 He that **overcometh**, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. **Rev 3:12** Him that **overcometh** will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Rev 3:21 To him that **overcometh** will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Rev 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

1John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our* faith.

Overcometh: nē-kä'-ō: to conquer, to carry off the victory, come off victorious. <u>Of Christians, that hold fast</u> their faith even unto death against the power of their foes, and temptations and persecutions.

Colossians 1:21-23 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled ²² In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: ²³ If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Romans 11:22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if **thou continue** in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

Continue: e-pē-me'-nō: to stay at or with, to tarry still, still to abide, to continue, remain, to persevere. *Webster*: "to keep going.

Hebrews 3:6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. 14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;
6:11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same

diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

How to overcome, continue, and persevere to the end.

Revelation 12:7-11 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, ⁸ And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

⁹ And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Rev 12:12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the

devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

I. APPROPRIATION: the blood of the Lamb.

Appropriation: to take possession of, to take something for one's own use.

• Disciples of Jesus can be lost!

Luke 8:13-14. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, <u>which for a while believe</u>, and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴ And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection We are not called to defeat Satan; we're called to resist him.

Our victory and the first principle of overcoming is to know our salvation is by grace.

The blood has been an offense to some since Jesus taught this truth of His blood and flesh in John 6.

II. APPLICATION: word of their testimony.

Application: the action of putting something into operation.

The word of their testimony is not hearing or quoting, but doing.

James 4:7 Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Jesus did not just quote Scripture in His temptation, He obeyed it.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Matthew 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

III. APPRECIATION: loved not their lives.

Appreciation: a full understanding of a situation.

The Christian life is one of self-denial, of dying to death daily.

The world's life is one of: self-centeredness, selfishness, self-fulfillment, self-consciousness, self-absorbed, self-interest, self-assured, self-promotion ...

• The Biblical principle.

Matthew 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Luke 14:26-27 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Paul's example:

2 Corinthians 1:8-9 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: ⁹ But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

How to overcome, endure unto the end?

1) Appropriate the blood of the Lamb.

2) Apply the word of your testimony.

3) Appreciate that you're not to love your life even unto death.