

## To Him Who Overcomes

**Key Verses:** Rev 3:20 ~ "Listen I stand at the door and knock; if any hear my voice and open the door, I will come into their house and eat with them, and they will eat with me."

**Power Point:** Jesus cares for the church and is committed to our success. He strengthens us and provides us with everything we need to overcome.

1. Rev 2:1,8,12,18; Rev 3:1,7,14 ~ We overcome by knowing who is on our side.

- How does knowing that God is on your side help you to live your life with victory and joy?

2. Rev 2:5,10,14,20; Rev 3:2-3,11,18 ~ We can be overcomers by knowing what Jesus desires.

- In what ways has your outlook on life changed since you've understood God's purpose for your life?

3. Rev 2:2,15,20; Rev 3:1,17; Prov 2:32 ~ Knowing our enemy helps us to overcome. The only power the devil has over us is when we give in to our own desires.

- Many things can draw us away from God. Compare how you feel when you refuse to let those things distract you from your relationship with God and when you give in to those distractions.

**Application:** Jesus overcame his enemy by the power of believing in God's Word. His heart and desire for His church is still the same – that we are a church that walks in confident victory, overcoming the pressures, persecution and obstacles that face us everyday.

## To Him Who Overcomes February 27, 2010

A study of the seven letters to the seven churches in the Book of Revelation, in the last few weeks, have challenged us do some introspection concerning our spiritual relationship with Christ. It is so easy to fall prey to the busyness and distractions of our culture and the demands of everyday life that we neglect the most important things when it come to spiritual matters. Even church life and work can become a substitute to a true relationship with Christ.

The church of Ephesus was busy with church work but had lost their first love  
The church of Pergamos was busy but they compromised with the culture of the world  
The church of Tyatira was busy but had placed the value of employment over holiness  
The church of Sardis was busy with community service but was spiritual dead  
The church of Laodicea was prosperous but spiritually bankrupt and lukewarm  
Only the churches of Smyrna and Philadelphia received commendations without reproof or warnings.

Although most of the letters addressed to the church are strong in language and words, the heart of Christ for the church is also seen through these letters.

Jesus cared enough about these churches, as he does for us today, to commend, admonish, encourage, call to repentance and promise blessing to those who would step up to the call of surrender.

Jesus' care for the church hasn't changed. He is committed to our success and when we step out of the path He reaches out and draws us back to the place of repentance and surrender.

He encourages the people to stand strong in times of pressure and not lose heart. He encourages the church to overcome the pressures, persecution and obstacles that face them everyday.

(Ephesus) Rev 2:7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." '

(Smyrna) Rev 2:11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." '

(Pergamos) 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*."

(Thyatira) Rev 2:26 and he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations...

(Sardis) Rev 3:5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

(Philadelphia) Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And *I will write on him* My new name.

(Laodicea) Rev 3:21 to him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

To overcome means to prevail, triumph, win through or succeed.

## Keys to overcoming:

Know whose on your side: JESUS!

1. He oversees and walks among the churches. He has all the power and authority (2:1) (Ephesus)
2. He is the first and last, who was dead but is alive (2:8) (Smyrna)
3. He is the final judge (2:12) (Pergamos)
4. He sees everything (2:18) (Thyatira)
5. He has the fullness of the Spirit (3:1) (Sardis)
6. He creates opportunities (3:7) (Philadelphia)
7. He is faithful and true (3:14) (Laodemia)

Know what he desires:

1. He wants to be our first love (2:4) (Ephesus)
2. He wants us to be fearless under pressure (2:10) (Smyrna)
3. He wants us to stand up for truth and his name (2:13) (Pergamos)
4. He wants us to walk in love, faith and patience (2:18) (Thyatira)
5. He wants us to live holy (3:4) (Sardis)
6. He wants us to persevere (3:10) (Philadelphia)
7. He wants us to be spiritually refreshing and therapeutic (3:15) (Laodemia)

Know your enemy:

1. **Busyness** which leads to a cold and loveless Christianity (2:2)

To be busy is to be full of activity. However being busy does not mean that one is being productive. Being busy doing the wrong things leads to fatigue and frustration.

The feeling of being hurried is not usually the result of living a full life and having no time. It is on the contrary born of a vague fear that we are wasting our life. When we do not do the one thing we ought to do, we have no time for anything else- we are the busiest people in the world.

Eric Hoffer

It is not enough to be busy; so are the ants. The question is: what are we busy about? - Henry David Thoreau

2. **Compromise** with the world which leads to immorality (2:14; 20)

Compromise – to concede, give in, make a deal with, go half and half with.

Sometimes we think that compromise is no big deal because we haven't given in completely.

“Compromise is when one person wants to rob a bank and the other person does not, and they compromise to rob a person outside of the bank.” - Christopher Myers

3. **Complacency** which leads to spiritual dryness (3:1)

*Complacent means to be self-satisfied.*

## **Proverbs 2:32 (Message) carelessness kills and complacency is murder**

You will never reach your God given dreams and desires if you allow a spirit of complacency [self-satisfaction] to rule your life.

Attitudes such as:

Well I don't want to work too much. I'm satisfied with my level of Christianity. I don't want to do any more.

I've been hurt too many times; I don't want to get involved.

I've tried it before and it didn't work. What if it doesn't work?

A person, who refuses to change because of what it may cost him, has become complacent in spirit.

We shall have no better conditions in the future if we are satisfied with all those, which we have at present. - THOMAS EDISON

### **4. Self-dependence** which leads to becoming spiritually lukewarm (3:17)

Self-dependence - Reliance on one's own capabilities, judgment, or resources...

Rev 3:17 (MSG) You brag, 'I'm rich, I've got it made, I need nothing from anyone,' oblivious that in fact you're a pitiful, blind beggar, threadbare and homeless.

A disciple of Jesus Christ chooses dependence over self-reliance.

Let me end with this series with Christ's invitation to the last Church, which captures the heart and desire of Jesus for each one of us.

Rev 3:20 (GNB) Listen! I stand at the door and knock; if any hear my voice and open the door, I will come into their house and eat with them, and they will eat with me.