

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

WHO IS HE THAT OVERCOMETH THE WORLD, BUT HE THAT BELIEVETH THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD?

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, APRIL 29, 2018

SCRIPTURE READING: **1 JOHN 5:5-8**

1 John 5:5-6, Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? 6: This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. John is the author of this Epistle, written around AD 100.
 1. The common belief among Bible scholars for years was John wrote his Gospel first, the Epistles second, and finally the **Book of Revelation** just before his death.
 2. However, many Bible scholars have come to the conclusion the Epistles were written last.
 3. Because of this belief, we concluded the first Epistle was written after his imprisonment on the Isle of Patmos.
- b. The Epistles are commonly referred to as "letters."
 1. Upon close examination of this first Epistle, it's not in the form or style of a letter.
 2. It has no greeting at its beginning, nor salutation at its end.
 3. The style is more like a message or a sermon.
 4. It appears to bare the marks of a message from a devoted pastor who had a love and concern for a definite group of believers in a certain place.
 5. Of course, we know John served as Pastor at the Church of Ephesus, which was founded by the Apostle Paul.
 6. As we have reflected before, this is one of the lead Churches in the **Book of Revelation**.
- c. To understand the **Epistle of 1 John**, we must know a little about the City of Ephesus at the beginning of the second century.
- d. It was much like our cities and hometowns today in America.
- e. There were four important factors which prevailed in Ephesus and throughout the Roman Empire with respect to Christianity. There is a thread that runs through this Epistle. Let's examine these four factors.
 1. There was easy familiarity with Christianity; something similar to what we are experiencing today.
 - a. The believers were children or grandchildren of the first Christians.

- b. It appears the brightness, thrill and glory had faded.
 - c. The Apostle John talks about this as he addresses the Ephesian believers throughout this Epistle.
 - d. In **Revelation 2:4** he states, *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*
 - e. It was Jesus who forewarned us in **Matthew 24:12**, *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*
 - f. The Ephesians' devotion and dedication to Christ was at a very low ebb. Remember when we preached from the **Book of Ephesians** several Sundays ago? Early on it was a church of firm belief and of a high spiritual nature.
 - g. This should be a wakeup call for Chesswood Baptist Church; we must never allow Christ to become just a familiar creature to us or neglect sound doctrine or the truth of God's Word.
 - h. **He is the Saviour of the world. He shed His blood on Calvary to save us from our sins**, so we need to keep that close to our heart and mind.
2. The high standards of Christianity required Christians to be different.
- a. This is so true even today. Christians want to blend in with the world. **1 John 2:15**, *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
 - b. The Bible tells us in **Titus 2:14**, *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*
 - c. The Judo-Christian ethics should not be disregarded as a Bible standard as it appears to be today, even among people who call themselves Christians.
 - d. **John 17:14** states, *I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*
 - e. We must ever be reminded of the fact that we are not of this world; our treasure lies in Heaven where the Lord Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of the Throne of God. **Matthew 6:19-20**, *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: Colossians 3:1, If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*
3. Persecution was no longer the enemy of Christianity.
- a. It was the danger of falling apart from the inside; not persecution from the outside.
 - b. The Lord Jesus Christ has warned us of this in **Matthew 24:24**, *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*
 - c. The Apostle Paul said this to the Ephesian Elders, and then in **Acts 20:29-30** it becomes plain, *For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30: Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.*
 - d. **We must be very diligent at Chesswood Baptist Church to not allow anything to creep inside and destroy the work of God.**
 - e. Christianity at that time was not in danger of being destroyed; it was in

- danger of being changed.
- f. We see a lot of this in the explosion of the "new versions" of Scripture that are on the market today.
 - g. I do not apologize for being a King James 1611 Version man, which is what is taught and preached in this Church.
 - h. The attempt was being made to improve the King James 1611; giving it intellectual respectability and having it speak in the terms of popular philosophical statements and so forth. Translators of today seem to have forgotten what **Revelation 22:18-19** says, *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*
 - i. Many of the new versions of Scripture that are on the market are appealing to the carnal mind and that is not what God has intended.
 - j. God does not desire to make us feel good at all times. **The Word of God should trouble our hearts and cause us to change our ways.**
 - k. **The Word of God should convict our heart. Hebrews 4:12**, *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*
4. John was attempting to refute false doctrine.
- a. Make no mistake; *once we allow a little bit of false doctrine to enter the church, it won't be long before we will not recognize what God has intended. Galatians 5:9, A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.*
 - b. Gnosticism was the real enemy of Christianity and still is.
 - c. Gnosticism takes many forms; the basic philosophy is matter and materials are essentially considered to be evil and only the Spirit is good. *The basic belief is the Lord Jesus Christ was a created being, robbing Him of His Deity and His ability to save the sinner by His blood. The Scriptures clearly teach that there are three that bear record in Heaven. 1 John 5:7, For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*
 - d. Out of this grew a statement we have heard before; "there is a spark of divinity in each of us."
 - e. Liberals still say this today, failing to reflect information about the wrath of God. **John 3:36**, *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. Romans 1:18, For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*
 - f. *Before we are saved and born again there is no spark of divinity in any of us. Isaiah 64:6 makes it plain, But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*
 - g. This is the reason we must have the "new birth." Scriptures clearly teach we

must be born again. **John 3:7**, *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

- h. There were two extreme groups that are introduced to us in **Acts 17:18**, *Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.*
 - i. Both of these groups deny the bodily resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; they also deny His being the Messiah.
 - j. It is believed in studying this particular book that John had these two groups in mind when he wrote in **1 John 2:22**, *Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.*
 - k. We can see they denied the cardinal truths of Christianity; they denied the incarnation of Jesus Christ, and they have taken on the thought that the human body is all evil because of the flesh.
 - l. Therefore, John comes back to say in **John 1:14**, *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*
 - m. Then in **1 John 4:2-3**, *Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: **3**: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*
 - n. Gnosticism would consider the incarnation impossible since God could not unite Himself with anything evil such as a body. **They flatly deny the miraculous conception, the virgin birth, and the sinless life of our Lord Jesus Christ.** Much of this false doctrine has entered into the new versions of the Bible.
 - o. Conversion does not take place in the body it takes place in the soul, and as we feed the "New Nature" with the Word of God, we bring the body into subjection. **1 Corinthians 9:27**, *But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*
 - p. The early church fought the heresy of false doctrine and this is what we must do today.
- f. Several important themes are reflected in this book:
1. **God is life; God is light; God is love**
 2. **A believer's birthmark is righteousness imputed by the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 3:22**, *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*
 3. **True love will manifest itself in actions, not just in words.**
 4. **Perfect love will cast out all fear. 1 John 4:18**, *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*
 5. **The love God expressed to us is totally unconditional.**
 6. **Only the blood of Christ can cleanse us of all our sins.**

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Please refer to the April 29, 2018 Morning Message for the Introduction.

3. THREE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

d. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

1. **1 John 5:5-6, Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? 6:** *This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.*
2. We are kept by the power of God through faith.
3. Jesus has indicated He has not given us the spirit of fear. **2 Timothy 1:7,** *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*
4. When we have faith in Christ for salvation, the future of our salvation is we **know** for sure we are a child of God then we are not shaken by anything that happens. **1 John 5:13,** *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*
5. The Bible tells us in **Ephesians 4:14,** *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;* **Colossians 2:10,** *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*
6. In other words, God wants us to be steady in the fact that Jesus will provide for us and meet every single need. **Philippians 4:19,** *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*
7. A very comforting verse that goes with this is in **Psalms 37:23,** *The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.*
8. This should be our prayer every day "Lord order my steps in your Word." **Psalms 119:133,** *Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.*
9. It is the Holy Spirit who bears witness to the believer that we are born of God because He is the Spirit of truth. **Romans 8:16,** *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*
10. As we recall the crucifixion of Jesus Christ; there are several things that need to be highlighted.
 - a. **John 19:33-35,** *But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: 34: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. 35: And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.*
 - b. John was indeed an eyewitness to the crucifixion of Jesus.
 - c. He indicated there was a spear placed in the side of Jesus and there was not only water but blood also that came forth.
 - d. The word "water" in the Bible speaks of the **Word of God. Ephesians 5:26,** *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the*

word,

- e. The Lord Jesus Christ was the Word of God. **John 3:5**, *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*
 - f. The **water** is the living Word applied by the Spirit of God.
 - g. Both **water** and **blood** came out of Jesus' side.
 - h. **Water** is the **Word of God** that the Spirit of God uses.
 - i. The **blood** cleanses the believer from all sin.
11. It is the Spirit of God that makes these truths real to our heart.
 12. The Bible tells us it is the Spirit that bears witness because the Spirit is truth. **1 John 5:6**, *This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.*
 13. When the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost, He was here to guide believers into all truth.
 14. We are saved not only by the redemptive work of Jesus, but the Spirit of God must work in our heart and lives.
 15. As we hear the Word of God, the Spirit of God make the Word real to our heart and it is only the Spirit of God that can make the death, the resurrection and the ascension of Christ real to us. **Psalms 119:130**, *The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*

e. For there are three that bear record in Heaven.

1. **1 John 5:7**, **For there are three that bear record in heaven**, *the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*
2. We come to a verse that various scholars tell us is not in the best of the manuscripts.
3. I do not class myself as a scholar, neither am I competing to be one.
4. Therefore, the truth that is laid out in this verse describes nothing more than the Trinity.
5. You might say there is no such thing in the Word of God.
6. Trinity simply means there are three.
7. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit were present at the creation of the world and the creation of man. **Genesis 1:26**, *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*
8. The word "Word" is used for the Lord Jesus Christ which means if we go to the Bible for a definition it says in **John 1:1-3 and 14**, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2: The same was in the beginning with God. 3: All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 14: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*
9. **It is amazing to me how men and women can stumble over such emphatic truths from the Word of God and question the absolute authority of the Bible.**

Psalm 119:160-161, *Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever. 161: Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word.*

10. Indeed, these three bear record in Heaven.

f. There are three that bear witness in the Earth.

1. **1 John 5:8**, *And **there are three that bear witness in earth**, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.*
2. These three agree for the purpose of presenting Jesus Christ as Saviour of the world who shed His blood on Calvary to pay the penalty for our sin.
3. These three bear witness in the Earth.
4. We have the Holy Spirit who will take the Word of God and apply it to our heart.
5. The Holy Spirit draws us to the side of the Living Saviour; He speaks not of Himself but He is here to speak of Christ. **John 16:13**, *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*
6. He is a witness so that you and I might come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
7. **We know the water represents the Word of God which is Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:26**, *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*
8. The Bible says in **Psalm 119:130**, *The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*
9. The Word is so important and is symbolic of the water reflected in this verse.
10. The **blood** of Christ will deliver us from the penalty of sin. **Hebrews 9:22**, *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*
11. The Word of God delivers us from the defilement of sin in the world today.
12. I might be accused of having a one-track mind but every single message that I preach, regardless of the subject must contain enough Gospel for a person to be saved and born again.
13. The only true miracle cleansing agent today in the world is the Word of God; it will clean us up and save our lives. **John 15:3**, *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*
14. My meddling in your business and affairs will not clean you up.
15. The Bible tells us in **1 Peter 1:23**, *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*
16. The other word under consideration is the **blood** of Christ.
17. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. **Hebrews 9:22**, *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*
18. At Chesswood Baptist Church, may we ever be mindful of the fact it is the blood of Christ that does the job of cleansing.
19. *The Spirit draws us to Christ, the Word of God allows us to be born of God and the blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin; past, present, and future sins. **John***

6:44, *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Would you come to the living side of the Saviour today?
- b. If you know not Him as personal Saviour the Bible says in **Matthew 11:28**, *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- c. The Bible also says in **Romans 6:23**, *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
- d. In **Romans 10:9**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*
- e. **Romans 10:10**, *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- f. Would you come to the side of the Living Saviour and be saved and born again?
- g. Please stand.

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