

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

Romans 8:31-39

I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** The word “conquer” means “to subdue” (literally or figuratively).

A. The Greek word used is *nikao* which is also translated:

(1) “overcome” (1 Jn. 5:4-5: “For whatever is born of God **overcomes** the world. And this is the victory that has **overcome** the world — our faith. 5 Who is he who **overcomes** the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”).

(2) “prevail” (Rev. 5:5: “...the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath **prevailed** to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.”).

(3) “victory” (1 Jn. 5:4-5: “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the **victory** that overcometh the world, even our faith.”).

B. Notice the text: “Nay, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him that loved us.”

(1) Here our word *nikao* is supplied with a prefix *huper* (i.e., over, above).

(2) Therefore, Christians are “more than conquerors,” we are “above, superior to, conquerors!”

(3) We are literally (Strong): “hyper-conquerors...we are pre-eminently victorious.”

(4) Only faithful Christians are equipped to gain a decisive victory over this sin-sick world.

2. **3** As Christians we must realize we are in a continual battle against sin. Notice the following facts from scripture concerning this “spiritual warfare”:

Eph. 6:10-12: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

1 Tim. 6:12: “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

3. Remember, not only the weapons of our warfare must be of God, but also the attitude of the warrior must be one of confidence that we can win the fight!

Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Heb. 13:5-6: “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” 6 So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?””

4. **4** Let’s spend a few minutes considering that as Christians “we are more than conquerors” (Rom. 8:37).

II. DISCUSSION:

1. **5** Warfare:

A. Notice what Paul told Timothy: **1 Tim. 1:18-20:** “This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, 19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, 20 of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.”

(1) Notice the phrase: “wage the good warfare.”

(2) We must be constantly aware that as we live in this world we live in a “war zone”!

- (3) If you lived in an actual “war zone” how would you live? (e.g., Berlin in Mar/Apr, 1945)
Situational awareness, constant state of readiness, arm yourself with weapons.

B. As Christians we need all three of these:

(1) Situational awareness:

- (a) What is one of the most tried and true military strategies that is almost always successful? The “sneak attack”! Remember December 7, 1941? Or, 9/11/2001?
- (b) Satan is the master of the “sneak attack”: **1 Pet. 5:8**: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”
- (c) If there were actual, real lions that roamed our streets, how would you walk down the street? Situational awareness!
- (d) Fortunately when I take out the trash, mow the lawn or go to Walmart I don’t have to worry about being attacked by *Panthera leo*; however, every waking moment I need to realize that Satan is there, lurking in the bushes just waiting to pounce on me! Situational awareness!
 - (i) Requires, for example, a keen awareness of my most glaring spiritual weakness.
 - (ii) Requires my razor sharp focus!

(2) Constant state of readiness:

- (a) During the “Cold War” our country was in a constant state of “military readiness.”
 - (i) For example, remember the *Strategic Air Command*? Explain
 - (ii) The various branches of our armed services constantly performed what were called “readiness drills.”
- (b) The purpose of all of this was to minimize the possibility that, as a nation, we would be caught off guard by our enemies.
- (c) What is the state of your “spiritual readiness”?
 - (i) Do you prepare each and every day to be spiritually successful?
 - (ii) Attend every service, including Bible study.
 - (iii) Regular program of Bible reading (Matt. 4:1-11).
 - (iv) Pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17).
 - (v) Self-examination (2 Cor. 13:5).
- (d) As the old saying goes: “If we fail to prepare, we are preparing to fail.”

(3) Weapons of our warfare:

- (a) What would you think of a soldier who either took no weapons into the battle or took the wrong weapons?!
- (b) Imagine the soldiers on D-Day storming the beaches of Normandy with no weapons or armed only with a cap pistol, BB gun and slingshot!
- (c) We can’t possibly be “*more than a conqueror*” in our spiritual battle if we are not equipped with the proper weapons!
- (d) What are our weapons?
 - (i) Not carnal: **2 Cor. 10:3-6**: “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the

knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”

(ii) Spiritual: **1 Pet. 5:8-9**: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith.”

(iii) Complete: **Eph. 6:13-18**

(4) Final thought: **Psa. 121:1-2**: “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. 2 My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.”

(a) No soldier can win the war alone, without help.

(b) Neither can we (**Eph. 1:15-20**; Psa. 23: “The LORD is my shepherd...”).

2. **6** Overcome Sin:

A. Sin is so destructive:

(1) Adam & Eve: **Gen. 3:24**: “So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.”

(2) David: **Psa. 32:3-4**: “When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.”

(3) Paul: **1 Tim. 1:13**: “I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man;”

(4) Israel: Num. 14; Assyrian captivity, Babylonian captivity, destruction of Jerusalem.

B. Think of all the destruction wreaked on the world today by sin! 24/7 God doesn’t care? No! Sin!

(1) Murder, war, divorce, child abuse, abortion, etc.

(2) Think of the mental anguish inflicted by hatred, strife, evil speaking, verbal abuse, etc.

C. In 2013 the Centers for Disease Control reported there were 41,149 suicides in the U.S. (10th leading cause of death in the U.S.)

(1) Many of those suicides resulted from the anguish of guilt over sin.

(2) So sin often kills the body, but it ALWAYS kills the soul (Rom. 6:23).

D. **7** But, we as Christians can overcome sin! Only through Christ:

(1) Jesus overcame the world: **Jn. 16:33**: “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

(2) Why? Because if we are “in Him” we too can overcome sin: **1 Jn. 4:4**: “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

E. We have an obligation to get the job done! **Jas. 1:27**: “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

Rom. 12:1-2: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

F. Confidence is essential (confidence in Christ that genders confidence in self):

(1) Paul felt that confidence: **2 Tim. 1:12**: “for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

(2) So can we: **1 Jn. 5:4-5**: “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. 5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

1 Jn. 2:13-14: “I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father. 14 I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.”

- G. Even though confident, we must exert a constant effort: **Phil 2:12:** “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;”
- H. Can't do it on our own: **Phil. 2:12-13:** “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”
- (1) Recall “what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe”? Eph. 1:19
- (2) This “power” is “according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,”
- (3) How? **1 Jn. 5:4:** “And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.” (Rom. 10:17)

3. **8** The Promises of Our Victory:

- A. The Hebrew writer exhorts: **Heb. 10:23:** “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” If we remain faithful we'll be “more than conquerors” and we will:
- (1) Hear wonderful words: **Matt. 25:21:** “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”
- And not these: **Matt. 7:23:** “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”
- (2) Crown of life: **2 Tim. 4:7-8:** “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”
- (3) Water of life: **Rev. 21:1-7**
- (4) Reign eternally: **Rev. 22:5:** “There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.”

B. “Victory in Jesus”

I heard an old, old story,
How a Savior came from glory,
How He gave His life on Calvary
To save a wretch like me;
I heard about His groaning,
Of His precious blood's atoning,
Then I repented of my sins
And won the victory.

Chorus

O victory in Jesus,
My Savior, forever.
He sought me and bought me
With His redeeming blood;
He loved me ere I knew Him
And all my love is due Him,
He plunged me to victory,
Beneath the cleansing flood.

I heard about His healing,
Of His cleansing pow'r revealing.
How He made the lame to walk again
And caused the blind to see;
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus,
Come and heal my broken spirit,"
And somehow Jesus came and bro't
To me the victory.

I heard about a mansion
He has built for me in glory.
And I heard about the streets of gold
Beyond the crystal sea;
About the angels singing,
And the old redemption story,
And some sweet day I'll sing up there
The song of victory.

Words and Music by E. M. Bartlett

III. CONCLUSION:

1. To fight this battle without Christ is to fight a losing battle!
2. Without Him we will never be “*more than conquerors.*” **Rom. 8:31-39**
3. The victory is in Jesus!
4. Won't you come to Jesus now! Invitation

Adapted from a sermon by Mike Davis.