

Sunday, March 10, 2013—The Things Freely Given Us of God—More Than Conquerors

Introduction

- Over the next few Sundays before Easter I will wrap up our most recent series of studies on the things freely given us of God. So far we have studied many things that things that have been given us freely in Jesus Christ.
- Last week we studied the mechanics of our eternal security in Jesus Christ.
- This week we want to look at what it means to be more than a conqueror through Jesus Christ. What does it mean to have already been given the victory? Did you know that according to the Apostle Paul we have already been made to triumph? What does it mean to reign in life by Jesus Christ? These are just some of the questions we want to attempt to answer this morning.

More Than Conquerors

- Romans 8:35—begins with a question, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” Paul asks if there is anything that can separate the believer from the love of Christ. Then he asks if a series of very specific things can separate us from the love of Christ.
- Tribulation—Paul is not speaking here about the tribulation period or the seventh week of Daniel. Rather Paul is speaking about the daily trouble, trials, and afflictions that believers face.
 - Romans 5:3—tribulation works patience in the believer’s life.
 - Romans 12:12—we are instructed to be patient in tribulation
 - II Corinthians 1:4—the same Greek word that is translated “tribulation” is also translated “trouble”
 - II Corinthians 2:4, 17—the same Greek word is also translated “affliction.” Notice how our light “affliction” or “tribulation” works for us not against us. Therefore, is it possible for our tribulation to separate us from the love of Christ? No
- Distress—according to *Strong’s Concordance* the Greek word translated distress means: 1) narrowness of place, a narrow place, 2) metaph. dire calamity, extreme affliction. According to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary* the English word distress carries the following relevant meanings: 1) to pain; to afflict with pain or anguish; applied to the body or the mind. 2) To afflict greatly; to harass; to oppress with calamity; to make miserable. 3) To compel by pain or suffering. Lastly, the English word “distressed” means: suffering great pain or torture; severely afflicted; harassed; oppressed with calamity or misfortune.
 - Romans 2:9—anguish
 - II Corinthians 6:4—Paul literally suffered distress for the sake of the gospel (II Cor. 11:23-28)

- II Corinthians 12:10—notice again that Paul could take pleasure in distresses i.e., physical abuse and suffering that came from sake of his Apostleship.
- Persecution—the act or practice of persecuting; the infliction of pain, punishment or death upon others unjustly (*Webster's 1828*).
 - II Corinthians 12:10
 - II Thessalonians 1:4
- Famine—being in hunger or not having enough to eat.
 - II Corinthians 11:27—“hunger” comes from the same Greek word translated famine.
- Nakedness—no clothing
 - II Corinthians 11:27
- Peril—danger; risk; hazard; jeopardy; particular exposure of person or property to injury, loss or destruction from any cause whatever (*Webster's 1828*)
 - II Corinthians 11:26
- Sword—a large knife used for killing people or animals and cutting us flesh.
- The Apostle Paul faced every one of these circumstances and situations mention in verse 35. Can any of these circumstances or situation separate us from the love of Christ? NO!!
- Romans 8:36—Paul seeks to make his point here by quoting from the Old Testament (Psalm 44:22). In other words, Paul asks are we just meat destined for the meat grinder? Are we just sheep to be slaughtered?
- Romans 8:37—“Nay” means denial or refusal i.e., no way. Paul says no we are not sheep destined to be slaughtered rather in all these things i.e., tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or sword we are more than conquerors.
- According to *Strong's Concordance* the Greek word translated “we are more than conquerors” is only found one time in the Bible and it means “to gain a surpassing victory.” In other words we are not victorious we are more than victorious.
- A “conqueror” is “one who conquers; one who gains a victory; one who subdues and brings into subjection or possession, by force or by influence. The man who defeats his antagonist in combat is a conqueror, as is the general or admiral who defeats his enemy.” (*Webster's 1828*)

- We are “more than conquerors” we have gained a surpassing victory through Jesus Christ. One of the things that we have been given freely in Christ Jesus is a standing of total, complete, and utter victory.
- II Corinthians 2:14—God always causes us to triumph. That defeatist, give up, quit mentality that manifests itself in your inner man is not the voice of truth. It is not the voice of God the Holy Spirit in your life. Rather it is the voice the enemy, the voice of your flesh telling you to call it a day, to hang it up, to look at the situation and circumstances and say God’s Word and his grace are not sufficient for what I am going through. The word of God doesn’t work effectually.
- I Corinthians 15:54-57—we have already been given the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Romans 5:17—God’s intention is that we might reign in life by Jesus Christ. God wants us by the power of his the indwelling Holy Spirit working in conjunction with his written Word to reign in our own lives. He doesn’t want us to follow our hearts he wants us to lead, guide and govern our hearts.