

Perseverance
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
July 10, 2010

In the messages John wrote in Revelation to the Churches, each of the churches addressed had a different challenge to overcome.

REVELATION'S MESSAGE TO THE CHURCHES

1. Ephesus = overcome loss of fervent love of Christ
2. Smyrna = overcome tests and 10 days of tribulation
3. Pergamus = overcome doctrines of Balaam and Nicolaitans
4. Thyatira = overcome Jezebel
5. Sardis = overcome imperfect works
6. Philadelphia = overcome the temptations of Satan
7. Laodicea = overcome indifference

MESSAGES ABOUT OVERCOMING

Revelation 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.
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2 Timothy 2:

- 8 Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel,
- 9 for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.
- 10 Therefore *I endure all things* for the sake of the elect (*chosen ones*), that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.
- 11 This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him.
- 12 *If we endure*, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.
- 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.
- 14 Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive (*battle*) about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.

Revelation 12:

- 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

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- 10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.
- 11 "And they *overcame him* by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

John 16:

- 31 Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe?"
- 32 "Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.
- 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."

Romans 12:

- 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.
- 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;
- 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
- 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;
- 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.
- 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
- 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.
- 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.
- 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.
- 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.
- 20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."
- 21 *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

What Did People In The Bible Have To Overcome?

1. Noah was a drunk
2. Abraham was too old
3. Isaac was a daydreamer
4. Jacob was a liar
5. Leah was ugly
6. Joseph was abused

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7. Moses had a stuttering problem
8. Gideon was afraid
9. Sampson had long hair and was a womanizer
10. Rahab was a prostitute
11. Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
12. David had an affair and was a murderer
13. Elijah was suicidal
14. Isaiah preached naked
15. Jonah ran from God
16. Naomi was a widow
17. Job went bankrupt
18. John the Baptist ate bugs
19. Peter denied Christ
20. The Disciples fell asleep while praying
21. Martha worried about everything
22. The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once
23. Zaccheus was too small
24. Paul was too religious
25. Timothy had an ulcer...AND
26. Lazarus was dead!

2 Timothy 2:

- 1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
- 2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
- 3 *You therefore must endure (share?) hardship as a good soldier* of Jesus Christ.
- 4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.
- 5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.
 - The Olympic Committee has disqualified a number of athletes from this year's competition for failure to comply with the rules
 - **1 Corinthians 9:**
 - 24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.
 - 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.
- 6 The hard-working farmer must be first to partake of the crops.
- 7 Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you (*or "the Lord will give you*) understanding in all things.
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- we already read 8-14, so skip down to verse 15
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- 15 Be diligent (*make every effort*) to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing (*discerning*) the word of truth.
- 16 But shun profane and idle babblings (*empty chatter*), for they will increase (*lead*) to more ungodliness.
- 17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort,
 - 1 Timothy 1:20 – these two were apparently teaching that a spiritual rebirth was the only kind of resurrection that would occur – much like many teach today
 - Last week we talked about how small things mean a lot – a mustard seed or leaven can produce very large benefits or consequences
- 18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.
- 19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."
- 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.
 - Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 talk about the different gifts and abilities given to individuals – but all are of the same “body”
- 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified (*set apart*) and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.
- 22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
 - We all did things in our youth that we hopefully don't do anymore
- 23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.
 - 1Ti 1:4; 4:7; 6:4; 2Ti 2:16; Tit 3:9 all repeat the same message
- 24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,
 - see 1Ti 3:2-3; Tit 1:9; 3:2 for more about the same message
- 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,
 - We often forget the phrase “in humility”
- 26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.
 - Escape the snare = overcome

Romans 5:

- 1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have (*let us have*) peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

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- 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance (*endurance*);
- 4 and perseverance, (*approved*) character; and character, hope.
- 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

2 Corinthians 12: (Paul's physical challenge)

- 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.
- 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.
- 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
- 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

1 Corinthians 10:

- 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear (*endure*) it.

James 1:

- 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials (*outward circumstances*),
- 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience (*endurance or perseverance*).
- 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect (*mature*), and complete lacking nothing.
- 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
- 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.
- 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;
- 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
- 9 Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation,
- 10 but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away.
- 11 For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.
- 12 Blessed is the man who **endures temptation** (*perseveres*); for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Ecclesiastes 9:

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- 7 Go, eat your bread with joy, And drink your wine with a merry heart; For God has already accepted your works.
- 8 Let your garments always be white, And let your head lack no oil.
- 9 Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that is your portion in life, and in the labor which you perform under the sun.
- 10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.
- 11 I returned and saw under the sun that-The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all.
- 12 For man also does not know his time: Like fish taken in a cruel net, Like birds caught in a snare, So the sons of men are snared in an evil time, When it falls suddenly upon them.
 - “The race is not always won by the fastest runner but sometimes by those who just keep on running”

Hebrews 12:

- 1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
- 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - Paul, or whoever was the writer, persevered – calling his life “the race that is set before us”
 - “A turn in the road is not the end of the road unless you fail to make the turn”

Remember, the only time you lose is when you quit trying.

Thomas Alva Edison, during an interview, was asked why he didn't consider himself a failure for not being able to create a light bulb that worked.

His reply - I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.

[Thomas A. Edison](#)

The churches in Revelation were urged to keep trying and to persevere. We are told in the Bible to keep on trying – to persevere.

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Every day has its new trials. As Ross Perot once said “Most people give up just when they're about to achieve success. They quit on the one yard line. They give up at the last minute of the game one foot from a winning touchdown. “

~~Ross Perot~~

From Winston Churchill, we heard “Never, never, never give up.”

~~Winston Churchill~~

2 Timothy 4:

- **7 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.**

Persevere! And you will obtain the prize promised by God!