

- Even The Last President To Serve, Donald Trump!
 - Or - That A New Record Would Be Set:
 - By American Astronaut Mark Vande Hei:
 - For The Longest Space-Flight:
 - By An American!
 - Who Completed 5680 Orbits Around The Earth, Traveling More Than 150 Million Miles, And Spending Nearly An Entire Year In Space!
 - 355 Days!
 - Or - That Elon Musk:
 - Would Single-Handedly Change:
 - The News & Social-Media Industry:
 - By Purchasing Twitter:
 - For \$44 Billion!
 - Or - That The World's Largest Active Volcano:
 - Mauna Loa - In Hawaii:
 - Would Erupt For The First Time:
 - In Nearly 40 Years!
- And - This Is Just A Small Sample:
 - Of What Happened Last Year:
 - That Made An Impact:
 - For Years To Come!
- And So - On This New Years Day:
 - We Might Wonder:
 - What Is In Store:
 - For This Year? 2023?
 - For The World?
 - For Our Country?
 - For Our Family?
 - Even - For Our Church?

4. And That Is Why:

- This Morning - As It Has Been Our Practice To Do:
 - As A Church - On The First Sunday:
 - Of The New Year!
- We Too Are Going To Take Some Time:
 - To Review:
 - Where We've Been In God's Word:
 - Last Year!
- As Well As:
 - To Preview:
 - Where I Believe God Wants Us To Go & Grow In His Word:
 - For This New Year!

* And So - First - Why Don't We:

I. Review:

- Where We've Been - Since The Beginning:
 - Of 2022!
- Last Year - Our Theme Was:
 - "Complete In Thee!"
 - Just Like The Song We Sang:
 - Before Our Message Time!
 - With The "Thee" - Of Course:
 - Referring To Our Lord Jesus Christ!
- And We Can Find This Great Theme:
 - In Paul's Letter To The Colossians:
 - In Colossians 2:10 - "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power!"
- This Means That:
 - When You Possess Jesus Christ:

- As Your Savior:
 - You Possess All!
- And That Is Why:
 - On Sunday Nights Last Year:
 - We Looked At:
- The Foundation We Have On Christ!
 - Because - Even Before The Foundations:
 - Of This World Were Laid:
 - The Foundation Of Christ:
 - Was Laid - And Then Revealed:
 - From The Beginning Of Time & Creation:
 - Through The Word Of God!
- And So - We Looked At How:
 - God Unfolded For Us:
 - His Eternal Plan Of Redemption:
 - Through Jesus Christ:
 - In The Old Testament!
- Even As Jesus Himself Demonstrated:
 - In Luke 24 - When We Are Told That:
 - After His Resurrection - He Met With Two Of His Disciples On The Road To Emmaus:
 - “And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself!”
- And So - Following Jesus’ Example:
 - We Looked For “Christ In The Old Testament”:
 - In The Great Variety Of Ways:
 - He Is Revealed To Us - And:
 - Even Promised To Us:
 - In The Scriptures!
- And - I Trust This Theme:
 - Has Enriched Your Own Reading & Study:
 - Of The Old Testament!
 - Because - When You Look For Christ There:
 - You Will Find Him - And Your Faith Will Grow Even Stronger!
- But Then:
 - On Wednesday Nights Last Year:
 - For Our Prayer Meeting Devotions:
 - We Looked At:
- The Fulfilment We Have In Christ!
 - And - The Reason Why:
 - As Christians - We Are:
 - *Complete* In Christ!
 - It Is Because - At The Same Time We Are:
 - *United* With Christ!
 - And - The *Union* We Have In Christ:
 - Is The Basis Of All:
 - Spiritual *Communion*:
 - We Can Have With Christ!
 - And So - We Looked At:
 - Just About Every Reference In The New Testament:
 - That Uses The Phrase:
 - “In Christ!”
 - And - As We Did So:
 - We Learned That It Is Used:
 - In Three Main Ways!
 - First - We Are Told About:
 - What God The Father:
 - Has Done - For Us:
 - “In Christ!”

- And - He Has Done:
 - So Much For Us:
 - In & Through:
 - Jesus - His Only Begotten Son!
- God The Father Provides For Us:
 - In Christ!
- God The Father Pours Out His Grace Upon Us:
 - In Christ!
- God The Father Enriches Us:
 - In Christ!
- And - God The Father Loves Us:
 - In Christ!
- Then - We Are Further Told About:
 - What You & I Now:
 - Have - As Christians:
 - “In Christ!”
 - And - Once Again - We Have:
 - So Much:
 - In Christ!
 - We Have Righteousness:
 - In Christ!
 - We Have Redemption:
 - In Christ!
 - We Have Hope:
 - In Christ!
 - And - We Have Joy:
 - In Christ! Along With:
 - So Much More!
- But - We Are Also Told About:
 - All That You & I Can Now:
 - Do - As Christians:
 - “In Christ!”
 - Jesus Himself Makes It Possible:
 - For You & Me:
 - To Love:
 - Like Christ!
 - To Speak:
 - For Christ!
 - To Be Faithful:
 - To Christ!
 - And - To Even Die:
 - In Christ!
- What A Precious Truth It Is:
 - To Be “In Christ” - And - To Be:
 - Completely Fulfilled By:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
- But - This Truth Is Also:
 - A Transforming Truth!
 - In 2 Corinthians 5:17 - Paul Tells Us:
 - “Therefore if any man be *in Christ*, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new!”
- Is There Evidence In Your Life:
 - That You Are “In Christ?”
 - Is There Fruit:
 - Growing From Your Faith?
 - Are The Old Things:
 - Passing Away:
 - More & More? And:

- Are “All Things” In Your Life:
 - Becoming More & More:
 - New?
- This Is Part OF What It Means:
 - To Be:
 - “Complete In Thee!”
 - But - We Also Considered:
- The Fellowship We Have With Christ!
 - With The Goal - That Paul Described For His Own Life:
 - In Philippians 3:10:
 - “That I May Know Him!”
 - To Know Jesus:
 - Was Paul’s Greatest Desire!
 - Not Just To:
 - Know About Him!
 - But - To Know Him:
 - Personally & Intimately!
 - And So - We Started Learning More:
 - About Jesus - On Sunday Mornings:
 - By Going Through The Gospel Of John!
 - Who - Himself:
 - Invites Us Through His Book - To Know Jesus & To Believe In Jesus:
 - As He Did!
- And So - Those Are Some Of The Highlights:
 - Of Where We’ve Been:
 - As A Church:
 - Just Last Year!

* But - For This Year - I Would Like To Provide A:

2. Preview:

- Of Where We’re Going!
 - You’ve Already Seen The Theme:
 - For This Year:
 - In Our Adult Sunday School Class:
 - As We Started Our Study Through The Book Of Revelation!
 - And That Is:
 - “Victory In Jesus!”
 - And We Can Find This Theme:
 - In Another One Of Paul’s Letters:
 - 1 Corinthians 15 - Where He Describes:
 - The Hope That All Christians Have Because Of:
 - The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ!
 - And - In 15:51-58 - We Read:
 - “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, / In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. / For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. / So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. / O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? / The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. / But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. / Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord!”
 - In These Verses:
 - Paul First Describes The:
 - Promise Of Victory:
 - That We Have In Jesus:
 - When We Believe In Him!

- This Promise Of Victory:
 - Is Given To Us As:
- A Promise Of Change!
 - 1:51 - "We Shall Not All Sleep, But We Shall All Be Changed!"
 - So - Even Though:
 - Not Every Christian Will Die!
 - Every True Christian:
 - Will One Day Be Changed & Transformed!
- And - This Change:
 - Is Even Described For Us:
 - In 1:49 - "And As We Have Borne The Image Of The Earthy, We Shall Also Bear The Image Of The Heavenly!"
- And So - Whether You Are:
 - Dead Or Alive:
 - At The Time Of Jesus' Second Coming:
 - Every Christian Will Be Changed!
 - And - God Will Change You:
 - Into The Image Of Your Incorruptible Savior, Jesus Christ!
- And - This Is Just Part Of:
 - The Victory We Have:
 - In Jesus!
 - All Who Have A Transformed Heart:
 - Will One Day - Be Given:
 - A Transformed Body!
 - A Body Fit For Heaven!
 - And - This Truth Leads Paul:
 - In 15:57 - To Express His Great:
- Praise For (The) Victory:
 - That We Have In Jesus!
 - "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"
 - When Jesus Returns:
 - To Rapture His People:
 - Who Are Living! And:
 - To Resurrect His People:
 - Who Have Died!
 - When This Happens:
 - Then - Something Else Happens!
- Death Itself Will Be Defeated!
 - Because - It Will Be:
 - "Swallowed Up In Victory!" (15:54)
 - This Is The Direct Fulfilment:
 - Of An Ancient Prophecy:
 - Found In Isaiah 25:8!
 - And - Final Victory Will Be Accomplished:
 - Over Death - And:
 - Everything That Leads To & Culminates In Death!
 - Including:
 - The Dangers Of This Fallen World!
 - The Depravity Of Our Own Flesh!
 - And Even:
 - The Devil Himself!
 - And Since - This Victory:
 - Comes To Us:
 - Through Our Risen Christ:
- Death Is No More Threat To Us!
 - In 15:55-56 - Its As If:

- Paul Is Mocking Death Itself!
- Where Is Your Sting, O Death?
 - **IE:** Like The “Sting” Of A Scorpion Or A Bee! Great Pain!
 - But For Believers In Christ:
 - The Pain Of Death:
 - Is Gone!
- Where Is Your Success, O Death?
 - Because - For Believers In Christ:
 - The Permanence Of Death:
 - Is Over!
- Where Is Your Strength, O Death?
 - Because - For Believers In Christ:
 - The Power Of Death:
 - Is No More!
- Death Is No More Threat To Us!
 - And - That Deserves Our Praise!
 - But - Even More:
- Death Has No More Triumph Over Us!
 - Because - Jesus Christ - Through His Gospel:
 - Gives Us Victory!
 - Jesus Gives Us The Victory:
 - Over That Which Convicts Us!
 - Even God’s Law!
 - Because - He:
 - Fulfilled All Of The Law:
 - For Us!
 - Jesus Gives Us The Victory:
 - Over That Which Condemns Us!
 - Even Our Sin!
 - Because - He:
 - Removed All Of Our Sin:
 - From Us!
 - Psalm 103:12 - “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us!”
 - Jesus Gives Us The Victory:
 - Over That Which Costs Us!
 - Even Death!
 - Because - He:
 - Destroyed Death:
 - Through His Life!
- And - For All Of This:
 - We Can Be Thankful!
 - And Fill Our Mouths With The Words Of Praise:
 - 15:57 - “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”

Conclusion:

1. So - This Is Going To Be:
 - Our Theme For This New Year:
 - “Victory In Jesus!”
2. And - To Develop This Theme:
 - In Our Adult Sunday School:
 - We Will Continue To Look At:
 - The Great Promise Of Victory:
 - That Is Found In The Book Of Revelation!
 - In Which The Final Victory:
 - Is Foretold In Vivid Ways!
 - In Our Morning Messages:

- We Will Continue To Learn More About:
 - The Great Person Of Victory:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - Through Our Series Through:
 - The Gospel Of John!
- In Our Evening Services:
 - We Will Look At:
 - The Great Progress Of Victory:
 - That We Can Have In Christ:
 - In Our Daily Walk With Him!
 - We Will Have Several Series:
 - Throughout The Year:
 - That Will Help Us:
 - “Fight The Good Fight Of Faith!” (1 Timothy 6:12)
 - So That - We Might Experience:
 - Even More Victory:
 - Over Our Deadly Enemies:
 - The World, The Flesh, And The Devil!
- And - On Wednesday’s:
 - For Our Prayer Meeting Devotions:
 - We Will Pursue:
 - The Great Power Of Victory:
 - Which Is - “The Sword Of The Spirit, Which Is The Word Of God!”
(Ephesians 6:17)
 - So - We Will Be Using Our Take 20 Bible Readings:
 - As The Setting For:
 - Our Studies - Each Wednesday:
 - Before Our Prayer Time!
- We Will Also:
 - Through The Month Of January:
 - See Some Great Pictures Of Victory:
 - By Enjoying Some Videos:
 - That Portray The Victory Of Jesus Today:
 - In Some Of The Earliest Places The Gospel Reached!

3.

- All In All:
 - We Need To:
 - In A Fresh Way:
 - See With Our Eyes - And:
 - Feel With Our Hearts:
 - That We Can Only Find Our Victory:
 - In Our Lord Jesus Christ!
- “Victory In Jesus!”

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