

Title: Christ Our Overcomer

Scripture: John 16:32-33

Series: Easter 2020

1. Introduction –

a. On Easter Sunday, we spend much of our time discussing the importance of the Resurrection and so we should. The resurrection is vital to the Christian faith. By it, our Lord demonstrated His power over death and extends the promise of life to all that humble themselves before His lordship. Today, I would like us to look at the resurrection in light of the love that motivated Jesus Christ to offer Himself as a sacrifice for sin.

i. Leading up to the crucifixion and subsequent resurrection we have two very important events; the Last Supper and Christ's Prayer on the Mount of Olives. In between both of these events, separated by mere hours, our Lord spent a vast amount of time instructing His disciples. All this instruction was meant to lovingly prepare the Disciples of Christ for a future in which they would not have Christ bodily present.

1. In other words, Chapter 13-17 encompass some of the very last words of Jesus to His beloved disciples.

2. The teaching begins and end with Christ love demonstrated for His elect.

a. The first verse of **John 13** states, “Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.”

b. The last verse of John 17 states, “I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

ii. Today we will look at Christ's victory and its significance in the life of the believer from the standpoint of Christ's motivation to embrace the cross at Calvary and therefore conquer death through resurrection.

b. In order to do so, we will find it necessary to perform a brief survey of these five chapters. This will enable us to more fully understand and appreciate our passage of study –

i. Chapter 13 –

1. Chapter 13 begins with the purpose of Christ for what was going to immediately happen and sets the tone for the rest of our 5 chapters. Christ did what he did because He knew he was leaving. He wanted to love His disciples to the very end.
 2. Christ humiliates himself even further in washing the disciples' feet. This was to exemplify how the disciples should mutually serve one another in love. Jesus loves them enough to correct their wrong thinking and give them a vivid example of true servant leadership.
 3. The chapter continues with a brokenhearted Christ revealing his omniscience. He calls out Judas Iscariot as the traitor among the group.
 4. This continues with Christ again reminding the disciples that He would be departing. Because of this, they would have to learn how to love one another. Christ makes this a commandment that must be followed among believers. It is this love that will make us recognizable as disciples of Christ.
 5. The chapter ends with a brokenhearted Christ calling out Peter for his future betrayal. It is not only Judas, a traitor for the beginning, that does not love Christ. Peter, a genuine disciple, will have his love wane cold. All disciples are always in danger of betrayal for we do not love Christ as He has loved us.
- ii. Chapter 14 –
1. Chapter 14 opens with the instructions that remind His disciples of their absolute need for Christ. He is the Way, Truth, and the Life.
 2. Jesus then proceeds to instruct us on what a genuine confession looks like. A genuine follower of Jesus must obey the commandments of the Lord. In order for us to do so, Christ promises to send The Holy Spirit as our Helper.
 - a. The world cannot receive the Holy Spirit.
 - b. The believer can.
 - c. Christ will not leave us orphans, but promises to come back.
 3. The Holy spirit will teach us about Christ.

4. Jesus accentuates His teaching of obedience by being the supreme example of obedience. He does what the Father commands. He does so because He loves the Father.
- iii. Chapter 15 –
1. Chapter 15 begins with the teaching on abiding in Christ. We are told quite clearly that without Christ, we can do nothing. Our work will be fruitless and abominable.
 - a. Christ desires that Christians abide in Him. By so doing they will bear much fruit.
 - b. That fruit is demonstrated in our loving others as Christ has loved us.
 2. This chapter then concludes with the teaching with stresses that we a disciple of Christ will be hated by this world. The world has rejected Jesus and therefore must hate all that love Jesus.
 - a. The Spirit is promised once again. This time we are promised that the Spirit will enable us to boldly bear witness of Christ to a world that does not want to hear of Him.
- iv. Chapter 16 –
1. Chapter 16 continues with defining the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Christ states that it is to the disciples advantage that he should go because this departure will ensure the coming of the Spirit of God..
 - a. The Spirit will convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.
 - b. The Spirit will guide the Christian into all truth. He will speak of and point to Jesus.
 - c. The Spirit will glorify Christ.
 2. This chapter then moves to the promise of sorrow giving way to Joy. Jesus promises the resurrection. He promises to see the disciples again.
- v. This chapter concludes with the Christ insuring the disciples that he will overcome. This victory of Christ, like His righteousness, will be imputed unto the believer. The believer cannot overcome on his own but the Victory of Christ is his victory.
- vi. Chapter 17 –
1. In chapter 17 we find the incredible prayer of Jesus for His current and all future disciples. Christ is not prying

for the world but specifically for His disciples. He wants the Father to keep them as Christ had kept them. He wants that Father would manifest His love for them as Christ has done. All that is about to happen is meant to glorify the Father.

- a. Christ has given His disciples eternal life by giving them the knowledge of the Father and of the Son.
 - b. Because of Christ, we are separated from the world. We belong to the Father in an adoptive relationship.
2. This chapter ends with the previous mention love for the disciples.
2. Verse 32: Unworthy Disciples – Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me.
- a. **Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come** –
 - i. Christ was never surprised by the events of this life. This included His eventual arrest, trial, and execution. Christ had directly stated all that would happen in regards to His sacrifice.
 - ii. Here, Christ confidently states that the moment in time was coming in which His disciples would fail him. This failure is called an hour (a determined moment of time).
 - iii. Christ knows all the disciples’ failings but he has determined that we should not fail utterly.
 - iv. What is shocking here is that although He knew that they would fail Him, he still promises grace in verse 33.
 - b. **...when you will be scattered** –
 - i. Notice what type of failure is predicted. They would, because of fear, be scattered. The picture is of sheep that all run in their own direction.
 1. How frail are the sheep of the Lord. How timid and afraid we are! How unworthy. Christ would embrace the cross for disciples that had abandon Him!
 - c. **...each to his own home** –
 - i. This phrase speaks of total abandonment. Each would leave and run home, seeking safety in the world and not in the Shepherd.
 - d. **...and will leave me alone** –

- i. Notice the heartbreak of this phrase. All the disciples would leave. Each would seek his own interest. No disciple would stand with Christ. The very people He came to save would leave him alone.
 - ii. This speaks of the totality of failure that is within each disciple. We all fail Him and yet he never fails us.
 - e. **Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me** –
 - i. Man’s shortcomings are not God’s shortcomings. Abandoned by man, Christ would never be abandoned by the Father. How complete is the Godhead. How faithful is God.
- 3. Verse 33: Gracious Christ – I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”
 - a. **I have said these things to you** –
 - i. Christ has revealed what is take place. His disciples must be assured that Christ’s sacrifice is with the full knowledge of what manner of men they were. If Christ is to pay for sin, He must pay for all of it. He must know all the sins of all the saints that he would carry to and make propitiation for at the cross (past, present, and future sins)
 - b. **...that in me you may have peace** –
 - i. The purpose of all that has been said was not a scathing rebuke of the unworthiness of the disciples. It was because He loves His disciples that he let them know what was about to take place.
 - ii. Christ wants His disciples to be at peace. What wonderful peace is found in knowing that Christ loves me even though I am an imperfect disciple. Oh beloved, that I could love Him as He love me.
 - c. **In the world you will have tribulation** –
 - i. Discipleship is not easy. We are promised tribulation in this world. The world must necessarily hate us because it hates and rejects Christ.
 - ii. The fear of the disciples was a genuine fear.
 - d. **But take heart; I have overcome the world** –
 - i. But here we find the victory of the resurrection. Christ has overcome the world. Death could not hold Him. By the resurrection, Christ demonstrated His supremacy!
 - ii. He has slain the giant death. He is victorious!

1. Because He is victorious, we are victorious. His victory is ours.
 - iii. Here is grace. Christ loves us to the very end. He loves His own.
4. Benediction –
- a. **John 13:1** Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

Public Reading of Scripture

John 15:1-11