

## More Than Conquerors

### Introduction:

- I. If you have your bibles, turn with me to Romans the 8th chapter and we want to read some of the most glorious words in the New Testament (**Rom. 8:28-39**).
- II. I want to encourage you by preaching on the great theme: "More Than Conquerors." Do you know that if you are a Christian you are a conqueror in Christ. To conquer means, "**to gain, acquire or to overcome...**" It means "**to be victorious,**" and if there is anything that we can be sure of in Christ, it is that we through Jesus are victorious. We have gained victory over Satan, sin and the world and so we are on the pathway to glory. We sometimes sing the song, "Where The Soul Never Dies." The opening words of that song are words of victory. "*To Canaan's land I'm on my way.*" It's not, "I hope I can find it" or "I hope I am going the right way." It's not, "I want to make it to Canaan's land but the distance is too far and the road is too hard so I'm probably not really going to make it." No, those are words of defeat. We sing words of victory. "*To Canaan's land I'm on my way.*" And let me tell you something about the trip. We're not ducking in and out of the shadows on our way to Canaan. We are not in the hiding business on this trip, trying to make it to the land of promise undetected. No we have defeated Satan by the power of God and we are now marching towards the capitol. "*We're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.*" God, ladies and gentlemen has given us the victory. Paul once said, "*...thanks be unto God, which always causes us to triumph in Christ.*" In Bible times a triumph referred to the entering into a city by a general after a decisive victory. The general would usually be pulled in a magnificent chariot drawn by two white horses. The crowd would be cheering the general on and lavishing him with honor and praise as he headed to the capitol victoriously. That's the word that Paul used to describe what we have in Christ. Why? Because in Christ we have victory and we stand as conqueror.

But I want you to notice something real quickly and then we will get into the body of the lesson. Paul didn't just say we are conquerors. He said we are more than conquerors. The Greek word is **hupernikao** and is actually a combination of two words: **huper** meaning "over, above, beyond" and **nikao** meaning "to subdue or to get the victory." Together they form the Greek word **hupernikao** and mean "to gain a decisive victory." Listen to me: in Christ you don't just gain a victory; you gain a decisive victory! It's like winning a basketball game by 40 points. It's like winning a football game by six touchdowns. It's like winning the world series 4 games to none. The competition isn't even close. When you obeyed the gospel of Christ, you, by the power of Jesus, gave Satan a beat-down. You wore him out! You didn't just gain a victory, you gained a decisive victory. Why would you want

to walk around like you have been defeated? Why do you want to live like you have been conquered when you are the conqueror? But we are not just conquerors, we are, Paul said, more than conquerors and we need to live like it, talk like it, think like it and act like it, and we need to start right now because in Christ we have victory.

## **Lesson:**

### **I. How Do We Know That We Are More Than Conquerors?**

How can we know that it is alright to walk with confidence in this world, knowing that the circumstances of life can't beat us regardless of what they are? You see, we can overcome tragedy in our life. We can overcome disappointments of any kind. We can overcome personal pain and private problems. We can overcome depression and despair. We can overcome hurt and harm and insult and injury. But the question is, "how do we know this to be the case? Paul gives us four reasons in the context of Romans 8.

#### **A. God is for us (ver. 31).**

Now what this means is that we can be victorious over all the obstacles that the devil throws before us in life because God is by our side and He will fight for us (**Josh. 10:31-42; Num. 13:31-14:9**).

#### **B. God has justified us (ver. 33).**

Here is the thing that ultimately makes us conquerors. Being a conqueror in Christ doesn't mean that we don't have any problems or that everything always goes our way. But no matter what, we know this: in heaven's court we have been declared not guilty. Listen to me: none of your past sins can ever be held against you. It's like in a human court of law, once you have been acquitted of a crime, you can't be charged with that crime again. The police can't come and arrest you for it. The judge can't try you again for it. In the aftermath of the trial, it may be discovered that you are guilty, but that doesn't matter because you have been acquitted. Your fingerprints might be found on some new piece of evidence, but that doesn't matter because you have been acquitted. A long, lost witness might come forth with some new testimony against you, but that doesn't matter because you have been acquitted. Now listen to me: in Christ we have been acquitted. Paul says that we have been justified by God Himself. I know that you can dig up some dirt from my past. I know that I have made some mistakes in years gone by. I know that I have not been a Christian my whole life. But I also know that by the grace of God I have been acquitted in God's court and so any accusation the devil or those with him make about my past really doesn't matter because I

have been justified by God. Through Jesus I have overcome, subdued and conquered my past. Pay attention to me now! You may have been a drunkard in times past. You may have been a drug user in times past. Maybe there has been fornication, covetousness, or even acts of extortion in your past. It does not matter because once you are in Christ what's in your past stays in your past. You have been justified by God.

**C. Christ makes intercession for us (ver. 34).**

Now someone says, "that helps me in regard to my past, but what about right now? How am I a conqueror when I am still plagued by an occasional lapse into sin? "After all, sometimes I have sinful thoughts. Sometimes I say sinful things. And sometimes I do sinful stuff. I'm trying to serve God right, but once in a while the flesh gets in the way. So how can I really be more than a conqueror over Satan and sin?" Well let me tell why you are still more than a conqueror. It is because you have a court appointed attorney to see to your case. His name is Jesus and fortunately for you He has never lost a case. He is unbeatable and undefeatable and He is in your corner making intercession for you (**Rom. 8:34; 1 Jn. 2:1; Heb. 7:24-25**).

**D. The strength of Christ's love for us (vers. 35-39).**

Here is a fact that all Christians should know and meditate on all the time: There is nothing, in or out of this world, that can stop Christ from loving us. Listen to me: Christ will never grow tired of us. Christ will never say, "I have had enough! I don't like you anymore!" Christ, ladies and gentlemen, is willing and ready to forgive you every time you sin if you just repent of it. And Paul tells us that even the things that put so much strain on earthly relationships (hardships and distress), won't ever stop Jesus from loving us. So then, we can be sure that we are more than conquerors because one undying truth is that Jesus loves us and there isn't any thing Satan can do about it.

**II. Living the Life of A Conqueror -- How Do We Do It?**

**A. By living in Christ.**

Did you notice that in Christ is where the love of God is located (**ver. 39**)? Listen to me: if you want to live a life of victory, there is only one place that you can do it—it is in Christ Jesus. You see, ladies and gentlemen, we don't have to worry about the world's accusations because in Christ there is no condemnation. We don't have to worry about ungodly allegations because in Christ we have achieved sanctification. We don't have to worry about unfair vilification because

in Christ we have attained a blood-bought purification. In Christ, ladies and gentlemen is where our failures have been forgotten, our flaws have been fixed and our faults have been forgiven. You see, in Christ we have been redeemed. Paul said,

*Rom 3:24*

*Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*

Do you know what that means? It means that we have been set free. We have gone from being subdued slaves of Satan to willing servants of Christ.

*Illustration:*

In your mind go back in time to the days before the Civil War. Imagine you are visiting one of the great cities of the South. As you approach the center of town you hear a commotion as a crowd gathers for a public auction and you gather round to watch the proceedings. The first thing you notice in the crowd is an foulmouthed, loud and boisterous man who you know, by reputation, as the meanest and most hateful man around.

You also notice in the crowd another man who stands out for his dignity and soft-spoken tone, and recognize him also by reputation as a most kind and gracious man. Both men, along with the crowd wait for the auction to begin.

Finally the auctioneer steps to the podium and begins rattling his words as the first item to be sold is brought to the auction block. There before you is a beautiful young girl, about 20 years of age, who has been a slave all her life. Her dress is old and torn, but remarkably clean. She is obviously filled with anxiety and fear as the bidding begins.

From the outset the loud obnoxious man seemed to have his evil eyes set on this lovely, innocent, young lady. She knew of his reputation and cringed in fear as he opened the bidding.

When the kind gentleman saw her fear, he too placed a bid. Soon only these two men were involved in the bidding as the price of the girl rose higher and higher. Finally the evil man bowed out of the bidding when realized that the price of the girl was more than he was willing to pay.

When the auctioneer closed the bidding the kind gentleman paid the price for his purchase, was handed the Bill-of-Sale and turned to leave. The young girl started to follow her new master. He then turned to her and asked, "Where are you going?" "Why, I'm going with you," she responded; "You bought me and I belong to you." "O! You misunderstood," the man said, "I didn't buy you to make you my slave, I bought you to set you free."

Then he took the Bill-of-Sale and wrote across in big block letters – FREE! – signed his name and gave it to the girl. "I don't understand," the girl said.

“You mean I am FREE!” “Yes, you are FREE!” “I can go wherever I want and do as I please.” “Exactly, You are FREE!”

“Mister, I don’t know who you are, but no one has ever shown such love and kindness to me. If I am free to do as I please, nothing would please me more than to go with you and serve you till the day I die.”

And that day she went home with Abraham Lincoln, not as his slave, but as his willing servant.

Origin Unknown

Doesn’t this aptly illustrate the great doctrine of Redemption! It tells the story of our slavery to Satan and sin; the cruel intentions of the enemy of our soul; and the gracious purchase, at an incredible price, by Jesus; not to make us his slave, but to set us free that we might willingly become His servant. How could we respond in any other way than to say, “If you love me that much, I’ll serve you forever!” This is what it means to live in Christ. It means that we willingly give ourselves over to Jesus, not as unwilling slaves, but as enthusiastic servants. And it is there, ladies and gentlemen, that we are more than conquerors.

## **B. By laboring with Christ.**

Here is the formula of success, both in the physical realm and the spiritual realm—work. It takes work to be successful in life. I don’t care what it is that you are endeavoring to do, work is the only way to get it done. Things don’t just happen very often. Labor is necessary. To labor means to “exert one’s powers of body and mind.” I’m always amazed at men who won’t work. They expend all kind of mental energy trying to figure out how they can make ends meet, but they are never willing to just get a job and work. The problem is that with some people work is beneath them. They don’t like to work, they don’t want to work and so the plain truth is they aren’t going to work. We all see this in the physical realm. But listen to me: there are some spiritual bums in the church. Do you know what a spiritual bum is in the church? *Brethren Unwilling to Make an effort.* Let me tell you what the church needs out of if each one of us. It doesn’t need us to be perfect. It doesn’t need us to be all-knowing. It doesn’t need us to have unparallel ability and skill. What the church needs is simply brethren who are willing to put forth an effort. The church needs workers. And herein is the formula for, not only congregational success, but personal success as a Christian. If you want to be a conqueror in Christ, work it out. Do you know what made Paul such a great Christian? He was a man who was willing to labor.

*2 Cor 5:9*

*Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.*

*Phil 1:22*

*But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labor...*

*Col 1:29*

*Whereunto I also labor, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.*

Paul, ladies and gentlemen, was a laborer. That's why he was more than a conqueror. He was willing to do something. Listen to me: conquerors conquer. In the physical realm the glory and praise is in being a conqueror. But before you can receive the honor of being a conqueror, you have to conquer something. Now as Christians we are not in this thing to be praised of men. Our honor and glory comes in the form of a home in heaven after awhile. But first we have to conquer something. First we have to labor.

*Heb 4:11*

*Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*

*Rev 14:13*

*And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.*

If we as Christians will just put forth the effort, we will die in a blessed state and be with God after awhile. Why? Because we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.

## **B. By leaning on Christ.**

It is when we trust Jesus completely that we can overcome Satan. It is when we put full confidence in our Lord and Savior that we conquer the world around us.

*Proverbs 3:5*

*"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."*

*1 Pet. 5:7*

*"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."*

Did you notice the singular nature of the word care? He didn't say cast your heavy cares upon the Lord. He didn't say cast your light cares upon the Lord. He simply said "cast all your care." Whatever care you have, big or small; heavy or light, cast it upon the shoulders of Jesus because He is strong enough to bear it. Listen to me: if Jesus could bear the weight of your sins on the cross, He can bear your feelings of loneliness; He can bear the weight of your marital problems; He can bear your financial difficulties and your burdens caused by your job. If Jesus could bear the sins of the whole world, then He can bear your difficulties with health issues and relationship issues, and temptation issues and any other issue that you might have. But your job is lean on Him and that is what we do in Christ. This is why we are more than conquerors. Any care that arises that can potential defeat us, we don't have to let it. We can turn to Jesus and lean on Him by casting our cares upon Him. But it requires total confidence and faith.

*Illustration:*

In college a student was asked to prepare a lesson to teach his physics class. He was to be graded on creativity and ability to drive home a point in a memorable way. The title of his talk was, "The Law of the Pendulum." He spent twenty minutes carefully teaching the physical principle that governs a swinging pendulum. The law of the pendulum is that a pendulum can never return to a point higher than the point from which it was released. Because of friction and gravity, when the pendulum returns, it will fall short of its original release point. Each time it swings it makes less and less of an arc, until finally it is at rest. This point of rest is called the state of equilibrium, where all forces acting on the pendulum are equal. After explaining the law of the pendulum, he gave a small demonstration and proved beyond doubt that the law was true. The student then asked how many people in the room believed the law of the pendulum was true. All of his classmates raised their hands and so did the teacher.

The teacher started to walk to the front of the room thinking the class was over. In reality it had only begun. The student stepped outside and with the help of a couple of class mates, retrieved a 250 pound pendulum that was crudely made, but functional, and hung it from a steel beam in the middle of the room. The student invited the instructor to climb up on a table and sit in a chair with his back against the wall. Then the student brought the 250 pounds of metal up to the teachers' nose, holding it just a fraction of an inch from his face, and once again explained the law of the pendulum. "If the law of the pendulum is true, then when I release this mass of metal, it will swing across the room and return short of the release point. Your nose will be in no danger."

After that final restatement of this law, the student looked his teacher in the eye and asked, "Sir, do you believe this law is true?" There was a long

pause. Huge beads of sweat formed on his upper lip and then weakly he nodded and whispered, "Yes."

The student released the pendulum. It made a swishing sound as it arced across the room. At the far end of its swing, it paused momentarily and started back. The student later testified that he had never seen a man move so fast in his entire life as the teacher literally dove from the table (Ken Davis, *How To Speak To Youth*, pp104-106).

It was easy for this teacher to believe in the law of the pendulum when it was all theoretical. But when his life literally depended on the law of the pendulum he showed that he truly didn't believe. How easy it is for us to believe that Jesus can handle our cares when we are sitting in a church pew listening to a sermon on faith. But in the real world where our lives are truly affected too many of us demonstrate that our belief is only theoretical. Listen to me: trust in Jesus. His promises are not just theoretical, they are real. They are trustworthy. You can be more than a conqueror over all the problems and pains, blocks and barriers that Satan tries to cast before you. But you must learn to lean on Jesus.

*1 John 5:4-5*

*For whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcomes the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

## **Conclusion:**

More than conquerors. That is what Paul said that we are through Christ. We are conquerors because God is for us, because God has justified us, because Christ intercedes for us and because Christ loves us. And if we live in Christ, lean on Christ and labor in Christ, we will continue being, not just conquerors, but more than conquerors in Christ.