

“Victory Over the Enemy—Part 4”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a series by giving a presentation titled “Victory Over the Enemy—Part 4.”

The first two presentations were designed to address the concept of not underestimating the enemy.

- Part 1—We talked about “overt danger” from the enemy.
- Part 2—We talked about “subtle danger” from the enemy.

The last two presentations were designed to address the concept of not overestimating the enemy.

- Part 3—Victory Over the Enemy From the Old Testament.
- Part 4—Victory Over the Enemy From the New Testament.

The Son of God resisted the enemy

The master salesman tried to trick the Son of God with three different tests.

- Matthew 4:3—The devil tried to set the terms—offering food to a hungry man.
- Matthew 4:6—The devil tried a second time to set the terms—challenging Him to prove the Father’s love for Him by jumping off the pinnacle of the temple.
- Matthew 4:9—The devil tried a third time to set the terms—appealing to His love for mankind and to the alleged opportunity to speed up the plan of God.

Saved by grace, created for good works

- Ephesians 2:1—The Son of God made us alive.
- Ephesians 2:2—We previously walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air and according to the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.

- Ephesians 2:3—We previously conducted ourselves in the lusts of the flesh and of the mind.
- Ephesians 2:4-7—But God (who is rich in mercy) raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly place in the Son of God.
- Ephesians 2:8—We are saved by grace (through faith)—it is the gift of God.
- Ephesians 2:9—Salvation is not by works, lest anyone should boast.
- Ephesians 2:10—We are His workmanship created in the Son of God for good works—which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Three quick requests

Although I regularly take time to stress the following three concepts, I did not take the time last Wednesday night to emphasize them in my message.

- Please allow the concept of being saved by grace to be one of the foundational pillars of your relationship with God.
- Understand that grace does not eliminate the Father's expectations of us, and I strongly recommend that you zealously respond with personal conviction to your understanding of what the Father's expectations of you are.
- Remember that you are capable of strongly holding fast to your personal convictions while still expressing deep compassion towards people who have different convictions.

Only loving your neighbor?

- Matthew 19:16-18—When the Son of God mentioned that a person should keep the Commandments, a young man asked: "Which ones?"
- Matthew 19:18-19—The Son of God mentioned the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Fifth Commandments—describing them as, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Were those the only Commandments to be kept?

- Matthew 19:20-21—The Son of God stressed those Commandments because those were the behaviors that the young man was lacking.

On these two Commandments

- Matthew 22:36—A lawyer asked the Son of God: "Which is the Great Commandment in the law?"
- Matthew 22:37-39—"This is the first and Great Commandment. And the second is like it."
- Matthew 22:40—"On these two Commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Judgment based on understanding

- John 12:47—If a person does not understand, the Son of God does not judge.
- John 12:48—If a person does understand, he is being judged.

Why consequences?

Notice that there is a major difference in suffering for sin and suffering for Christ.

- 1 Peter 4:12—Trials are not a strange occurrence.
- 1 Peter 4:13-14—Rejoice if you partake of Christ's sufferings.
- 1 Peter 4:15—When we suffer for our sins, we are being foolish (and we could also be described as being stupid).
- 1 Peter 4:16—Anyone who suffers as a child of God should not be ashamed.

God of grace will help you

- 1 Peter 5:8-9—Beware of the adversary who seeks to devour, and resist him.
- 1 Peter 5:10—May the God of all grace (who called us to His eternal glory through His Son) help you through your suffering—strengthening you and settling you.
- 1 Peter 5:11—"To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."