



A Study On The Dominion Of Christ

Day 1

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." (Romans 8:37; ESV)

Much of the time, we do not feel like conquerors. In fact, many of us feel like we are barely even staying in the daily battle of life, with all of its anxieties and hardships. This passage of Scripture reminds us of two things we often get confused about. First, truth is determined by our faith in God's Word, not in what we see with our eyes. We all have bad days. We all struggle with various weaknesses that lead us to sin. Most of us have asked the question, "How can God call me a conqueror when I continue to fall so often?" The second thing we must recognize in this verse is where our strength to conquer comes from. We often stop reading the verse after the word "conquerors," but we miss the most important part, "...through him..". Without the power of the Holy Spirit inside of us—made possible by the death of Christ—we do not and could not have the power to conquer sin. This is made clear earlier in the same chapter, "For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact, the Spirit of God dwells in you." (Romans 8:7-9a)

In other words, you are more than a conqueror because you are not fighting with your own strength but with God's strength. Another way to say it is that God is fighting your battles for you, alongside you, all while the Holy Spirit is praying for you in your weakness according to the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27) He knows what you need. He knows what is good and best for you. He is equipping you with the power to overcome the works of the flesh so you may glorify God through holy living. Therefore, rather than focusing on our circumstances or failures, we must rely on God's faithfulness to His Word. The key is to remember you and I cannot win the battle on our own, but with God, we cannot lose. The next time you think you cannot overcome temptation, remember the Spirit of Christ lives inside of you, and He has overcome the world. (John 16:33)



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Day 2

"But Peter and John answered them, 'Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.'" Acts 4:19-20

We are living in a time where it is becoming more costly to speak the name of Jesus. For the first time in my life, I have seen friends lose their jobs or access to the public marketplace due to speaking "unacceptable" things—and by "unacceptable," I mean Christian things. We are faced with a decision: to speak about Christ and face the consequences, or to self-censor and retain a semblance of normalcy.

In Acts 4, Peter and John were faced with this same decision, though admittedly more dire. They were threatened for preaching about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They were told they would remain free under one condition: stop preaching about Jesus! I sometimes wonder what I would have done in that scenario. In our cancel-culture today, we have much to lose for preaching the gospel of Christ, but certainly, being canceled meant something much more drastic to the apostles! Their lives were on the line. Courageously, Peter and John exclaimed, "...for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." For them, it was not a choice. They had no other option but to preach the good news of salvation because they had seen Jesus, they had heard his words, and they had witnessed his death and resurrection. The resurrection of Christ was and is the ultimate truth that renders all other concerns mute.

A second thing to notice in this story is that the envious religious leaders who threatened Peter and John were astonished when they heard the Apostles preaching because they were "common men" (Acts 4:13-14). In other words, through the Holy Spirit, the Apostles spoke with wisdom and power despite their lack of education. Let this build confidence in you to speak boldly for Christ and never rely on your own intelligence. Third, while Peter and John were preaching, they healed a crippled man. The scribes and elders were inflamed with anger, but because this man had been healed, they could not deny the power of God at work. This should inspire us to ask the Holy Spirit to do an undeniable work in our hearts and lives, that we would be transformed into His likeness, that all who hear our words would be convinced by the power of God at work in us. Be bold, and do not listen to the threats of men. Listen to the words of God.



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Day 3

"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." 2 Timothy 1:7

I cannot recall seeing so many people living in fear as I do today. Something very dark has fallen upon us in these last couple of years. Something much darker and more sinister than merely a disease or pandemic. It is a plague of mass fear. Fear that has led to global anxiety—the kind that burrows its way into the dark places in our minds and locks us up. Many people are controlled by it. It has ruled their comings and goings. It has robbed their joy, and it has kept them in a spiritual prison of sorts. It is a prison that is underground and away from the light, so its prisoners have no way of knowing if it is night or day, rain or shine, up or down, or a new beginning or the end of days.

Some of this fear may seem rational. We are living in dangerous days. Jesus never promised us that we wouldn't go through dark times. The Apostle Paul writes to Timothy when Paul is in prison. If there were a time to be afraid, this would be it! Paul knows he is in prison due to his preaching of the gospel. He knows he may never get out. He knows he may be killed. He knows Timothy will be concerned, but Paul tells him not to be afraid... "for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." (2 Timothy 1:7)

I don't think the correct response to our suffering is to deny we are suffering. The point is not to feign naïveté as if obliviousness is a strategy to fight against fear. The correct response, according to Paul, is to recognize the danger, admit there is something to fear, but have faith to overcome the fear by the Spirit of Christ within us. After this beautiful verse, Paul goes on to talk about Jesus Christ who "abolished death and brought forth life and immortality." It was God who called Paul to this great work of preaching the gospel, and Paul is convinced God will see His work through to the end.

As we face our very real and present fears in the days to come, let us be reminded, as Paul was, that it is God who has called us, abolished death, and granted us eternal life. He will see us through to the end. He did not give us a spirit of fear. Instead, he traded it for a spirit of power.



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Day 4

“And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.” Daniel 7:14

It is very tempting to try and make sense of all of the evil and chaos that we see every day. The truth is that things seem to get more nonsensical with each passing news story. Every week I have conversations with friends who either call me or I call them and say, “what do you think is happening?”

One of the biggest mistakes that I make—and I presume that you make it too from time to time—is that I forget that God is in control. I forget that Jesus is on the throne.

This incorrect thinking can come from a couple of different places. First, it can come from a misunderstanding of who owns the earth. It is true that the earth is fallen due to our first father, Adam's sin. The devil is allowed to have certain powers. He is allowed to deceive, try to kill, steal and destroy. He hates mankind, and he constantly accuses us. However, the devil does not own the earth. This is not his world. The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it belongs to Him! (Psalm 24:1)

A second misunderstanding can be that even if God owns the earth, He isn't ruling over it now. This would mean the devil rules the earth while God watches from afar, powerless or unwilling to intercede. But the Bible says, “The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!” (Psalm 110:2). Jesus is Lord of the earth right now, right here, in your bedroom or at your work, in every corner of the globe. His rule is not a future event but a present reality.

A third misunderstanding can be that we go throughout our days exhausted, depressed, anxious, and forget to put our eyes upon God. We judge the state of reality based on our circumstances rather than the reality of God's dominion. If Jesus is King over the earth right now, then this must mean that He is not shaken during a pandemic. He is not unsure of His plans. He has not forgotten His promise to take care of me. Today, let us pray His dominion rule will penetrate every corner of our lives, especially the dark corners that remain largely secretive. There are no secret spaces in the dominion of Christ. Ask Him to enter, and ask Him to rule.



A Study On The Dominion Of Christ

Day 5

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1

To imagine a life without strife, trials, and pain is impossible. We read about two different sides of the same story in the Bible: struggle and victory. The Christian life does not promise a life without struggle. In fact, we are told we will indeed suffer. We are told we are in a spiritual war against our flesh. We are told the devil aims to kill, steal, and destroy us.

One of the interesting things about the Christian life is that we are called to fight in a battle that has already been won. One may think this would cause us to be over-confident. While this is a logical conclusion, on the contrary, I find many of us walk in an abundance of under-confidence. Sometimes it seems we believe in the power of God for future salvation, but not in the power of God in our present circumstances. For instance, we know God will put an end to our anxious thoughts after we die, but we don't believe nor do we often ask for Him to intervene when we have anxious thoughts here on earth.

The Psalmist begins in chapter 27 with the proclamation, "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" This is pertinent to the fear that some Christians have of losing their jobs for speaking about Christ in our current times. Or perhaps because of a refusal to speak some new secular dogma. Fear of being canceled, or of having your social media account suspended, or even of the government sticking its nose where it doesn't belong—namely into the business of how parents raise their kids. Are those scary scenarios? Are they legitimate concerns? Absolutely! But my God is my salvation, not only in the future, but He is my salvation here and now. So whom shall I fear?

In this same chapter, there is a famous passage that says, "One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire[c] in his temple." (Psalm 27:4). This sums up the dichotomy of struggle and victory. We have legitimate weights and legitimate dangers in this world, but we will not fear because we are safe in the shadow of the Almighty. We set our eyes upon Christ. We set our minds on His goodness, and we live in His presence. This doesn't guarantee us a life of ease. We will still suffer while on this earth, but the Holy Spirit will give us the power to suffer well.