

1 John 5:1-5 1

THEME/TOPIC: Faith is the Victory.

TEXT: I John 5:4...."..and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." (KJV).

PROPOSITION: Victories in life which are lastingly good are those achieved through the application of faith in Jesus Christ.

Sources: Sermon on this Scripture and text written August 31, 1945(!), and attached hereto when filed, also showing when preached.

Date Revised: April 29 & 30, 1982.

Dates and places used:

May 2, 1982 - FIELD & CHAPEL SERVICES FOR ODGAMC, GEORGIA, AT 0800 AND 1000.
July 3, 1983, DEANING O.M. CHURCH, GEORGIA
July 10, 1983 - ODGAMC CHAPEL LIB. CAMP, JESU

INTRODUCTION:

1. When buying, EXPERIENCE of self or others with similar product helps determine choice

a. Consumer Reports magazine helpful.

b. Similarly, EXPERIENCE WITH JESUS CHRIST; Christianity is an experiential religion --

JULY 17, 1963 - 7⁰⁰ P.M., ST. JAMES
U.M. CHURCH, AUGUSTA, GA.

THE QUESTION: Victories in life which
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INTRODUCTION:

1. When buying, EXPERIENCE of
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2. Consumer reports magazine
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3. Similarly, RELIGION WITH
JESUS CHRIST: Christianity is
an experiential religion --

c. Christianity is NOT a philosophy, science, or fiction.

2. JOHN, writer of today's Scripture, lived when young Christian movement threatened by varying religious philosophies, from simplest animism to intricate pantheism.

ba. John rebutted other religious pressures by insisting that HIS EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT FAITH IN CHRIST PRODUCES THE FULLEST LIFE.

(1) "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you."

(2) "And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full."

b. This writer, John, generally ~~thought~~ ^{thought} to be a person who knew Jesus personally and well when Jesus lived on earth, so his faith BASED ON EXPERIENCE with his Jesus.

3. TODAY WE NEED STRENGTH FROM FAITH too. We NEED VICTORY, the elation of winning.

a. In this AFTER-EASTER-DAY-PERIOD with the fresh memory of the first recorded permanent victory over death, this SCRIPTURE SUGGESTS STRESS ON FAITH IN CHRIST AS THE VICTORY THAT OVERCOMETH THE WORLD. our theme.

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philosophy, science, or fiction.

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b. Our text, I Jn.5:4--"And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

I. ALL OTHER TYPES OF VICTORY HAVE FAILED to be permanent or world-conquering.

1. MILITARY VICTORY fails, always.
--Examples: World Wars,
Roman empire
others
2. ECONOMIC VICTORY fails.
-people of great fortune no
happier than others
-U.S. comparatively great pros-
perity has not made us beloved,
but objects of jealous & hate
-etc
3. POLITICAL VICTORY fails;;
- the great ISMS
- in this country FDR or JFK,
& now RR
-others
4. SOCIAL VICTORY fails.
-social prominence or social
degradation built on race
always brings disaster
-slavery in US & prejudice
since
-anti-semitism in Germany, etc

Our text, I think, is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

ALL OTHER TYPES OF VICTORY HAVE
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3. POLITICAL VICTORY fails:
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4. SOCIAL VICTORY fails.
-social prominence or social degradation built on race
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II. FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST PRODUCES THE MOST PERMANENT AND MOST SATISFACTORY VICTORIES.

1. VICTORIES THROUGH CHRIST ARE PERMANENT.

1. a. Fear of death is overcome through faith in Christ, because of Jesus' resurrection & his promise that people of faith would join him in it.

- martyrs.. "seed of the church"

b. St. Francis--giving up social and military & economic status, & permanently influencing the world

c. Nations which set as goals, though never reached ones, Christ's concerns for individuals, last and are copied more than any others.

2. VICTORIES THROUGH CHRIST ARE SATISFACTORY.

a. Happiness and self-assurance of committed Christians, without excess egotism and with concern for others, makes them satisfied, and good to be around

b. St. Paul--

c. With Christ, meaning, happiness, usefulness, can be found in almost any circumstance.

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3. VICTORIES THROUGH CHRIST ARE CONVINCINGLY DEMONSTRATED NOW & IN FAITH FOR THE FUTURE.

a. Erasmus -- writer, believed in peace, courageous, lost churchly and world advancement; but now honored more than most of the seemingly successful of his day.

b. Christian peace-seekers have not ended war, but they do find peace, as in the old hymn:

Thro' Christ on the cross peace
was made,
My debt by His death was all paid.
No other foundation is laid,
For peace, the gift of God's love.
Peace, peace, sweet peace!
Wonderful gift from above!
Oh, wonderful, wonderful peace!
Sweet peace, the gift of God's
love!

c. Army personnel, even medical personnel, who are committed to Christ, can find inner peace in whatever circumstances; and with it retreat and refreshment from or within their circumstances.

d. Christian martyrs of history, not overcome by force, cruelty or death, but so stirred others that the faith spread everywhere.

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1 JOHN 5:1-5

CONCLUSION:

1. Commitment, to ~~and~~ faith in Christ gives purpose and goals to life, which lifts one out of self, to God, to others, and to ones best self.

2. Real Christian commitment adds zest and zeal which brings individual, social, and other victories --ones that are lasting.

3. As text says, THE VICTORY THAT OVERCOMETH THE WORLD IS FAITH IN CHRIST

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