

I Was Impressed

A young man, who had moved to another state to complete his education, returned home one summer. He said he was working on his thesis for a Master's degree in his field of study. Before he moved away, he had on occasion given a talk or sermon, so he was asked to speak at the next Sunday evening service.

That Sunday evening he presented a most impressive lesson. I was very much impressed. But not in the usual sense. It wasn't the content of the lesson that impressed me, it was his vocabulary. He used words that I had never heard before.

I spent most of my time trying to understand what those words might mean. I tried to write the words down so I could look up the definitions later, but I wasn't sure how to spell the words.

On that occasion, something made an indelible impression upon me. As a preacher I must speak in terms easily grasped and use words that are understood by the audience. I need to impress the listeners with the greatness of the message, not my vocabulary.

A passage of scripture found in First Corinthians, chapter 2, came to mind: "And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified."

- Ron Adams



The Worker

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The Keys to Overcoming the World

In Revelation, there is a lot of figurative language and many difficult symbols. Because of that we often avoid reading the book. But in it are some great Bible helps. One of them is found in chapter 12, where we learn how Christians are to overcome the world.

To preface what is going on, in verses 7-10 we read about war breaking out in heaven, and Michael and his angels fighting with the dragon and his followers. We see that the dragon did not prevail and he was cast out of heaven. Because of this, Satan (the dragon) roamed the earth persecuting and tempting God's people. Then, in verse 11, we read what the Christians possessed to overcome Satan and his worldly ways: "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death." In this passage are the three keys to overcoming the world. Let's examine them in a little more detail.

The Blood of the Lamb. We need to always remember what Jesus did to make salvation possible. It is only because of His sacrifice upon the cross that we have the opportunity of salvation in the first place. Too many times we do not trust enough of our lives to Jesus. The first key to overcoming the world is giving Jesus all of our lives and trusting in Him and the power of His blood, come what may. This begins with our baptism into Him and continues through a life of faithfulness.

The Word of Their Testimony. Not only did the early Christians trust Jesus, but they knew and lived His word. The word of our testimony is the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ. We must love it, learn it, live it, and laud it. By doing so, we gain the knowledge and encouragement necessary to overcome the world and its sinful ways. We can only gain this through serious Bible study.

They Did Not Love Their Lives to the Death. The final key we must examine is that of separating oneself from the world. Christians may live in the world, but they are not to be of the world. Nothing on this earth is to be so precious to us that we are not willing to give it up for the cause of Christ (our lives included), and we show it in our attitudes and actions.

Are you having trouble overcoming the world or the temptations of the world? Maybe it's because you have not put enough trust in Jesus. Maybe it's because you do not read and live His word enough. Maybe it's because you do not separate yourself enough from the lost world and worldly ways. That's how the first century Christians did it – and if we are to overcome, that is how we will do it also.

- Edd Sterchi preaches for the Broadway Church of Christ in Campbellsville, KY.

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
Robby Stocksdales, Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch

Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "Hosanna in the Highest!" Mark 11:1-11

Sunday Evening: "The Suffering Servant" Isaiah 53

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
Opening Prayer Clint Smith Sr
Scripture Robby Stocksdales
Sermon Eric Welch
Lord's Supper
Message Irvin Williams
Attendant Marc Owens
Attendant Nathaniel Welch
Closing Prayer Hayward Blanton

PM Service

Song Leader Clint Smith Jr
Bible Reading Matt Johnson
Selection 43
Prayer Bill Cravens
Sermon Eric Welch
Closing Prayer Leon Stocksdales
*If you are unable to serve, please
call Art Patrick 502-819-9481
or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

AM & PM Services

Announcements Harold Tincher
Lord's Supper Steven Cravens
Offering Jerry Montgomery
Usher Brandon Montgomery
Count Offering Joe Sweeney
Assist Count Art Patrick

Last Sunday

Contribution \$2,752
Attendance 102

No Matter What They Say

Eric Welch

I thank God for the great weekend we had with the Boggess family. Eddie preached sound sermons that I pray will continue to encourage us and to reach those who need to obey the gospel. In this article, I want to present a summary of each lesson presented.

The first sermon dealt with the power of God. No matter what people say about God, we must take heart that “God is still running the show.” The universe runs off the power of Christ (Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:1-3). Even the unrighteous benefit from God’s goodness (Matthew 5:45). However, God takes special care of His children. His children are those who love and obey Him (Psalm 37:25; John 10:1-18; Romans 8:28). One special way that He does so is by responding to their prayers (Psalm 34:15).

Saturday evening’s sermon dealt with what people say about the Bible. Many people hate the Bible. They think it is out-dated and filled with myths and contradictions. However, no matter what they say about it, the Bible still “cuts it” (Hebrews 4:12) It has outlasted every attack (1 Peter 1:25).

The poem “The Anvil of God’s Word” makes this point well.

“Last eve I paused beside the blacksmith’s door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor,
Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.
“How many anvils have you had,’ said I,
‘To wear and batter all these hammers so?’
‘Just one,’ said he, and then with twinkling eye,
‘The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.’
“And so, I thought, the Anvil of God’s Word
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The Anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone.”

The Bible is still sharp because it answers every human need, especially man’s spiritual need. It exposes our sins, but then shows us the remedy for our sin (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Bible also answers every great challenge that would endanger God’s purpose for the church. Two of those challenges are division and growth. Division or denominationalism is strongly condemned in Scripture (1 Corinthians 1:10). Jesus prayed that His followers be one (John 17:21). If we follow God’s plan, the Bible can heal division in the church. It will also provide the church’s growth (1 Peter 2:2); all true spiritual growth will result in healthy numerical growth of the church.

The Bible class lesson discussed the perfect/imperfect church. Many people criticize and condemn the church as full of hypocrites. Some people say, “Give me Jesus but let the church go to hell.” No matter what they say, God has a perfect plan for the church. From eternity, His plan was to save the church (Ephesians 3:11; 5:23). However, we humans are imperfect in practicing His plan. Far from being a group of hypocrites, the church is made up of people who recognize their flaws and they know that they need Jesus and His forgiveness. As Jerry Casey said last Sunday evening after someone responded to the invitation, the church is a hospital for sin-sick people. Although God has a perfect plan for the church and the church is filled with imperfect people, Jesus has made the church glorious. She is the perfect bride of Christ who has been cleansed and arrayed in the bridal garments He has given her (Ephesians 5:26-27). He has truly made her beautiful. She could not do it on her own.

The last lesson presented the idea that death still cannot win. Although nonbelievers deny the afterlife or pleasure seekers their own mortality, the Bible tells us that death has no final say. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:55-58 that death can no longer harm the child of God. Death has lost its sting when Jesus died for us. The child of God will not face the second death, which is hell (Revelation 21:8). This is why we must remain “steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...”

No matter what people say, God always has the last word and His people will always have the victory through Jesus Christ.

Hamburg Pike Happenings

The Monday Night for the Master group will meet November 2nd. The meal theme is pizza.

Young men's training class will meet Monday night 11-2-15 from 6 to 7:15 PM at the building. Pizza and drinks will be provided for the meal and then the training class with Eric afterward.

On Wednesday night, October 28th, after Bible study, we'll have a short meeting for those who plan to participate in Trunk or Treat.

Mark your calendars! Our annual Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 30th at the building. Please join us if you can.

On Friday, October 30th, after Trunk or Treat, we'll have a hot dog/marshmallow roast. A sign-up sheet is on the table.

The Ladies Bible Class will meet Saturday morning, October 31st, at 10:00am at the church building.

A reminder that Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 am Sunday, November 1st, turn your clocks BACK one hour.

Volunteers are needed to prepare the communion trays. Please check the volunteer sign-up list on the bulletin board for the schedule.