

Those Who Belong to God Have Conquered

The obvious ceases to be obvious when we listen to voices that are misinformed or spouting false teaching. It was the latter who were bellowing in the first century, leaving the true children of God confused, when John wrote his first letter.

You are from God, little children, and have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. (1 John 4.4)

Excuse me for repeating this so often, but God is in us when we obey the word of Christ, John 14.23. In a dissolute and perverse world (as it has always been), which gives itself, unrestrained, over to carnal passions and personal pleasures, the followers of Christ do God's will and receive in their hearts the presence of the Lord.

Through his living in us, his power works to give us the victory. If we do not have the victory (note: the verb conquered is in the past tense!), we need to ask ourselves why. It is entirely possible that we are still rebelling against complete obedience to the Lord. In what area do we still refuse to submit ourselves to his will?

Or perhaps we do not recognize the nature of this victory. It is not freedom from trials and suffering, nor is it a comfortable financial situation or a healthy body. The victory does not consist of physical comfort. We have victory when our hearts are secure in God and spiritual peace possesses us, even when the storms of life through their worst upon our heads.

We enter into victory because God is greater than the evil one and because he is within us, reigning in and over us.

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The Worker

3108 Hamburg Pike, Jeffersonville, IN 47130 Ph. (812) 284-3125

Volume 5 Issue 39

www.hamburgpikecofc.org

September 25, 2016

A Matter of the Heart

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life (Proverbs 4:23).

Have you heard about the broken clock hanging on a wall of a church building? A sign below it said, "Don't blame my hands; the trouble lies on the inside."

The same is true for you and me. Our feet take us places we shouldn't go. Our hands do things we ought not do. Our mouths utter wicked words. Why? Is something wrong with our feet, hands, and mouths? No, the problem lies deeper.

Jesus said, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matthew 12:34). Hear the Master again: "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies" (Matthew 15:19). Are these actions sinful on their own merits? Indeed! Nobody even remotely familiar with the Bible would argue otherwise. Yet the outward act does not constitute the whole problem.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus repeatedly showed that God is concerned not only with the outward behavior (good or bad), but with the condition of the heart which motivates it. That is true of murder (Matthew 5:21-26), adultery (5:27-32), honesty (5:33-37), and acts of worship and service such as charitable giving, prayer, and fasting (6:1-18). God disapproves of sinful acts, but He also disapproves of the corrupt hearts that produce them. He wants us to obey Him, but also to have pure motives.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). Such is the Lord's estimation of the human heart. How, then, can we guard our hearts so that our actions are acceptable to God? The apostle Paul taught that we must be careful with our thinking. The world is awash in vulgar, trashy, ugly, ungodly material with which we might occupy our minds. We might meditate about things immoral, things that make us angry, wrongs we have suffered, and past failures. By contrast, Paul says, "whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

There is an old computer saying: G-I-G-O – it stands for "garbage in, garbage out." Whatever you feed into your mind and allow to stay there will come back out in words and deeds. Remember, it's a matter of the heart.

- Joe Slater serves as minister of the Church of Christ in Justin, TX.

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
Robby Stocksdale, 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: "A Man Who Caused a Nation to Sin" 1 Kings 11:37-38

Sunday Evening: Singing Emphasis

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins

Opening Prayer Clint Smith Sr

Scripture Joe Sweeney

Sermon Eric Welch

Lord's Supper

Message Irvin Williams

Attendant Jerry Montgomery

Attendant Rudy Ayala

Closing Prayer Joe Sweeney

PM Service

Song Leader Rick Martin

Bible Reading Brandon Slotman

Selection 30

Prayer Bill Cravens

Sermon *Singing Emphasis*

Closing Prayer Greg Blanton

If you are unable to serve, please

call Art Patrick 502-819-9481

or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511

AM & PM Services

Announcements Robby Stocksdale

Lord's Supper Jerry Casey

Offering Doug McArthur

Usher Brandon Montgomery

Count Offering Art Patrick

Assist Count Hank Tincher

Committed to Biblical Truths

Eric Welch

We are three weeks into our new quarter of Bible classes. We thank you, teachers and assistants, for your hard work in presenting the Bible to our children. We thank you, Jerry and Hayward, our elders, and you, Clint Smith Sr., our education director, for your work in choosing the curriculum and organizing the classes. We thank you, Robin Owens, for ordering and picking the curriculum for us. We thank you, Paula Casey, for presenting to the elementary-age teachers the new Wednesday evening Bible class curriculum called Bible Study Guide for All Ages by Donald and Mary Baker. This material actually teaches the entire Bible.

To do the tough work of teaching our children, it is important that all Bible class teachers, both men and women, commit themselves to certain truths. Below are a good Biblical number of those truths.

1. The Bible is God's Word. The Bible does not contain God's Word or become God's Word as liberal theologians would have us believe. When the Bible speaks, God speaks. "All Scripture is breathed out by God..." (2 Timothy 3:16; Matthew 4:4).

2. Every book of the Bible is the Word of God. Not only Acts but 2 Chronicles. Not only Hebrews but Leviticus. Not only our most cherished chapters but also those genealogies we tend to skim. Paul reminded Timothy "how from childhood [he had] been acquainted with the sacred writings" (2 Timothy 3:15). May our children ever be "acquainted with the sacred writings" from Genesis to Revelation.

3. The Bible is self-authenticating. If we teach the Bible as God's Word, we must be able to tell deniers why we believe it. Critics will say, "You Christians believe the Bible is God's Word but you believe it without a reason; you have no evidence." Yet, there is a reason; the Bible contains evidence within itself of its divine origin. The sum total of all its attributes and characteristics (e.g. its claim as inspire + unity + harmony, etc.) show that the only explanation of its origins is that it is beyond human production. In other words, it is self-authenticating.

4. The Bible is therefore authoritative. Approaching the Bible with a "Thus says the Lord" will help children learn that all authority rests on the Bible and on the Bible alone. Every answer to their questions must come from the Bible.

5. Every teacher should seek out the purpose of the Biblical writer. A relationship exists between the original inspired author of a book and the original readers of that book. When you learn what that intent is, you learn what the Biblical writer wanted to say to the Biblical reader. Someone has pointed out that "The Bible cannot mean what it has not meant." This truth leads to a proper interpretation and, subsequently, a proper application of Scripture to the modern reader.

6. The Bible is a book about God. The Bible is not a pop-psychology, self-help book written to make us happy—happy in marriage, at a good job, with a weightless program. Although it does reflect on such peripheral issues, the Bible is about God. It is God's story. He reveals to us who He is, what He thinks and wills, what He has done for His people and what He desires for them. Learn about Him, trust in Him, appreciate Him and those side issues will take care of themselves (Matthew 6:33). To "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" is the only true path to happiness. However, we will find that the more we learn of Him in the study of the Bible, the less of a desire we will have to please ourselves.

7. Teachers don't "make the Bible relevant;" they show its relevance. David writes in Psalm 63:1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I like this quote from one author, "Truth is as relevant as water to thirst or food to hunger." (adapted from The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching by Haddon Robinson).

Hamburg Pike Happenings

The Monday Night for the Master group will meet September 26th at 6:30 pm. The meal will be pizza.

There will be a baby shower for Devin Ayala at the building on Sunday, September 25th at 4:30pm. Devin is registered at Babies R' Us. Please bring a pack of diapers or baby wipes to be entered to win a door prize. See Ashley Smith for further questions.

A Singing Emphasis service is scheduled for Sunday evening September 25th.

On Tuesday September 27th. Eric plans to attend the Gilmore – Rosenberg debate on the existence of God. The debate begins at 6:30. If you would like to attend, see Eric so he can order tickets since seating is limited.

Our Fall Gospel Meeting is scheduled for October 21st thru the 23rd at 7:00 pm on Friday and Saturday with regular class and worship times on Sunday. The speaker is Jack Honeycutt. The lesson titles: "The Origin and Development of Islam", "The Real Agenda", "Bible vs. Quran", "Jesus vs. Muhammad"

The ladies' Bible Class will meet this Saturday, September 24th at 10:00AM.

All youth of the congregation are invited to a Taco Party on Friday, September 23rd at 6:30PM, here at the building. Come eat tacos and celebrate having over 50 kids each night at VBS 2016!

The Yahoo group will have a devotional on September 22nd. Be sure and sign up soon.

A quarterly update from Nick and Marisa Parker who are working for the Lord's church in Dunedin, New Zealand is posted on the bulletin board.

A congregational trip to the Cornucopia Farm is planned for Saturday October 1. We will meet at the farm at 1:00PM; the address is 5444 N Rutherford Hollow Rd, Scottsburg, IN 47170. The admission is \$9 for adults, \$7 for kids 3-12, \$7 for seniors 65+. Kids under 3 are free. See Ashley Smith for additional information.