

## Week 15: "Being An Overcomer"

### Memory Verse

"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." I John 5:1-5

### Day One

Sunday, January 26, 2003

"Being An Overcomer"

**Read:** Romans 8:1-4 (p. 1288) and Commentary (p. 1289)

**Reflect:** Thinking of overcoming, how does an airplane overcome the law of gravity? In your personal life, how does one overcome habits and selfish desires?

**Dig:** What is the "therefore" there for? How does it connect with the previous chapter?

Where does condemnation come from? To answer this question, turn to Revelation 12:10 (p. 1493) and I John 3:19-20 (p. 1468)

**Apply:** What area of life is a problem for you? Ask God to remove the condemnation you feel and ask him for the power to overcome.

### Day Two

Monday, January 27, 2003

"Overcoming Shame"

**Read:** Micah 7:7-10 (p. 1028) and Commentary (p. 1027)

**Reflect:** What is the difference between guilt and shame?

Is it usually harder to forgive yourself or others?

**Dig:** Why is Psalm 130 (p. 678) such a great cross-reference for this Micah text?

What steps does this Micah text teach for combating shame in our lives?

Vs.8 mentions the "enemy." Who was Micah's enemy? Who is our enemy (see "Freedom Point" on p. 1028).

**Apply:** Turn to page 1529 in the appendix of your Freedom Bible and say aloud the announcements of the Kingdom of Light.

Close with a prayer of thanksgiving to God for his light which illuminates our lives.

**Day Three**  
**Tuesday, January 28, 2003**  
**"Conviction of Sin"**

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 7:8-11 (p. 1335) and Commentary (p. 1335)

**Reflect:** Have you been taught to "let your conscience be your guide"? Does that work very well? Why or why not?

**Dig:** Do a little research about what "letter" Paul is talking about and the reason he wrote 2 Corinthians to them.

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-2 (p. 1309) What caused Paul grief?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:23-2:4 (p. 1328) What must have been their reaction to Paul's first letter?

Read 2 Corinthians 7:9-11 and write down on this paper two lists: one which names the characteristics of "worldly sorrow" and another which lists the characteristics of "godly sorrow."

**Apply:** Ask God, in relation to what you struggle with, to take away the worldly sorrow of self-condemnation and Satan's accusations. Then pray for a good dose of godly sorrow.

**Day Four**

**Wednesday, January 29, 2003**  
**"Our Inheritance in Christ"**

**Read:** Hebrews 1:1-4 (p. 1420) and Commentary (p. 1421)

**Reflect:** What positive characteristics have you inherited from your ancestors? What do you wish you could inherit?

**Dig:** Study these other passages to see how Jesus is given such a prominent place:

- Matthew 28:18-20 (p. 1121): What does this passage say about authority?
- Philippians 2:9-11 (p. 1367): What does this passage say about his place in the universe?

What key ingredient or condition does Romans 8:17 (p. 1290) lay down if we are going to be legitimate heirs of all that belongs to Christ?

**Apply:** Since almost everything we perceive from the culture around us and everything we feel inside us, closes our hearts to the truth that we are co-heirs with Christ, fervently pray this prayer from Ephesians 3:

*"Glorious Father and God of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I ask that you would give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that I may know you better. I pray also that the eyes of my heart may be enlightened in order that I may know the hope to which you have called me, the riches of my glorious inheritance in the saints and your incomparably great power, which you have extended to all who believe. In Jesu's name I pray. Amen."*

**Day Five**  
**Thursday, January 30, 2003**  
**"The Love of Christ"**

**Read:** Ephesians 3:14-21 (p. 1359) and Commentary (p. 1358)

**Reflect:** Do you know someone who loves because they have decided to love another person, no matter what that person says or does?

Which of your loves can be considered a commitment (not so much a desire)?

**Dig:** This section (vs. 14) begins with the phrase "For this reason..." Track down what Paul is saying here: go back to chapter 2:19-22 and see if you can summarize what Paul is telling his people. Then notice how Chapter 3 begins. What are verses 2-13 in terms of the flow of thought that Paul is following? What is the main

blessing that Paul is praying for?

Notice how chapter four begins (commands). How are these commands connected to the prayer that Paul prayed for the Ephesians?

**Apply:** Take the prayer of Paul in verses 16-21 and re-write it as a prayer for yourself. Then, if you have time, re-write it again to pray for a person who needs to know more of God's love.