

1 John – God is Love: Week Two

What it Means to Have Divine Protection

Day Three: Overcoming Our Enemy

On Day One this week, we learned that Jesus is our Advocate, and our Propitiation. This means that Jesus has promised to defend us and intercede for us against all accusations of sin and guilt. It means He has already paid in full, with His blood, the cost of our redemption. The blood of Jesus gives us divine protection from the *“rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12*

On Day Two this week, we learned that when we abide in Christ’s love, our hearts and minds will be changed and will bear fruit as a result of being with Jesus. We will choose to love God and His people. We will choose to walk in the spirit, not in the flesh. Our most important treasures become those that bring us closer to holiness, leading towards eternal life and away from death. You could say that abiding in Christ gives us divine protection from the *“the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life.” 1 John 2:15*

God has declared to us that He is our Protector.

*“Blessed be the Lord, my Rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle;
My lovingkindness and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer.
My shield and He in whom I take refuge,
Who subdues my people under me.
O Lord, what is man, that You take knowledge of him?” Psalm 144:1-3a*

*“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress,
My God, in whom I trust.
...for you have made the Lord, my refuge,
Even the Most High, your dwelling place.
No evil will befall you,
Nor will any plague come near your tent.
For He will give His angels charge concerning you,
to guard you in all your ways.” Psalm 91:1-2,9-11*

Today we will look at what God means when He says we will “overcome evil”.

Read 1 John 2:12-29

In Chapter 1 verse 5 we read, “*God is Light and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness we lie and do not practice the truth.*”

Now, in Chapter 2, John describes darkness for us, and gives it several different names.

What are some of the names of darkness? Fill in the blanks from today’s reading:

1 John 2:12-29

1 John 2:13-14 “I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the _____”.

2:15 “Do not love the _____ nor the things in the _____”.

2:16 “For all that is in the _____

- Lust of the _____
- Lust of the _____
- The boastful _____.”

2:18 “Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that _____ is coming, even now many _____ have appeared.”

2:22b “This is the _____, the one who denies the _____ and the _____.”

2:26 “I have written to you concerning those who are trying to _____ you.”

From the verses above, we can understand that our enemy can take different forms. All we need to know is that God is Light. Whenever something or someone is not in the Light – we know it is darkness. That can include New Age humanism in all of its forms, or other false religions and cults.

John tells us that anyone in Hollywood, television, politics, Facebook or Twitter, schools, or organizations.... that denies Jesus is the Christ is a _____.

_____ . (1 John 2:22)

Jesus taught us that we need to be aware of the reality that we do have an enemy, but that we should not fear him, because Jesus is our Protector. Let's look at a passage in Matthew's Gospel, where Jesus is training His disciples to go out and preach the gospel.

Read Matthew 10:16-33 Fill in the blanks.

Matthew 10:16 "Behold I send you out as sheep in the midst of _____."

10:19" But when they hand you over, _____."

10:26 "Therefore _____ them."

10:28 " _____ those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

10:31 "So _____; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

What is the main idea that Jesus is teaching in these verses?

Read Isaiah 43:1-5a

In this passage the" Lord God who formed us" gives reasons that His children do not need to fear. Write out what this passage says to you that will help you in times of trouble not to fear.

Read 1 John 5:4-5

According to this passage, whatever is born of God overcomes the world. What is it that we need if we are to have the victory?

Here are some things to know that will help us overcome evil.

1. **Know God is committed to you.** Read John 17:11-15. What does Jesus ask the Father on our behalf? _____

2. **Know your true self.** Read the following passages and answer the questions.

- 1 John 4:4 Why have you overcome the Antichrist? _____

- 2 Peter 1:3-4 Now that we have His precious and magnificent promises, we can now become partakers of the divine nature so that we will escape what? _____

- 2 Corinthians 5:16-17 If we are in Christ, what are we? _____

- 1 Corinthians 1:27, 18-20, 25-26. We make up the body of Christ. What does this passage tell us about what God does not want in His body? _____

3. **Know the Truth.** Read 1 John 4:6 How can we know if someone knows God? _____

4. **Know the enemy's schemes.** Read 2 Corinthians 2:10-11. What did Paul do in verse 10 so that Satan would have no advantage? _____

- **1 Timothy 2:25-26** What does Paul say will allow someone to escape from the snare of the devil? _____

- **2 Corinthians 4:4** What does the god of this world (Satan) do to the unbelievers so that they don't see the light of the gospel? _____.

- **2 Corinthians 11:13-15** How does Satan disguise himself? _____
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5. Prepare for war!

- **Ephesians 6:10-18** What are we to put on so that we can stand firm against the schemes of the devil? _____
- **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** How are the weapons that we fight with described? _____

6. Walk in Him! Read Colossians 2:1-4 What will happen when Christ is revealed?

I know that was a lot of work – looking up so many verses. But aren't you glad that you took the time to read and answer those questions? There are some great verses there that you may want to write out and keep where you can read them often. It is so important for you to know that you are an Overcomer and that Jesus Christ, Himself is your Divine Protector.

Greater is He that is in you, than He that is in the world. 1 John 4:4

On Christ the Solid Rock I stand. All other ground is sinking sand.
All other ground is sinking sand.