He Gave It All Easter 2017
(Revised version of “The Blood Of The Overcomer.”)

Hebrews 2:14-18
14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;
15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.
16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.
17 Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.
18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Revelation 12:11
And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb...

The Scurge (scourge) of Childhood

- Dr. Felix Ruh (roo),
  - a Jewish physician
  - and a co-worker of Louis Pasteur,
    - had a granddaughter
      - who died of black diphtheria.
- Diphtheria used to be known
  - as the "scourge (scurge) of childhood."
- The bacterial disease
  - was particularly hard on young children
    - and often spread quickly through schools.
- The infection works in a horrifying way,
  - simultaneously poisoning the victim
    - and slowly suffocating him or her
      - as the bacteria grow into
        - a thick film in the back of the throat
          - eventually cutting off the airway.
- For most of history,
  - there was little doctors could do
    - to help someone with diphtheria.
- In the aftermath of his precious grand daughter’s death,
  - Dr. Ruh (roo) vowed to do
    - what no one else had ever done,
      - to find a cure for this horrible disease.
In fact, he locked himself in his laboratory for days, emerging with a fierce determination.

The French Medical Association disapproved of the work of Ruh (roo) and Pasteur and had succeeded in getting them exiled, but they did not go far from Paris.

They hid in the forest and erected a laboratory in which to continue the forbidden research.

The details now are celebrated medical history. But then they were shrouded in secrecy.

Twenty beautiful horses were led out into the forest to the improvised laboratory in a remote barn.

With the 20 horses in stalls, Ruh (roo) opened a steel vault and took out a large pail filled with black diphtheria germs, which he had cultured carefully for months. There were enough black diphtheria in that pail to kill everyone in France.

The scientist went to each horse and swabbed its nostrils, tongue, throat, and eyes with the deadly germs.

The inevitable began to happen. All 20 horses fell ill and developed a tremendous fever.

Over the course of the next few days the horses died horrific deaths, one by one, until only one remained.

For several days this one brave horse lingered between life and death, lying pathetically on the ground.

Finally it seemed that the end was immanent, surely the horse could not last another night.

Ruh (roo), Pasteur, and several associates had cots brought into the barn so they could be close to the animal.

An orderly was instructed to watch the horse through the long dark night and awaken Ruh (roo).
• should there be any change
  o in the animal’s temperature
  ▪ during the night.

▪ At about two a.m.
  o the temperature dropped by
    ▪ a half-degree,
  ▪ and the orderly wakened Dr. Ruh (roo).

▪ By morning the thermometer
  o had dropped two more degrees.

▪ By night the fever was entirely gone,
  o and the horse was able
    ▪ to stand, eat, and drink.

▪ Against all odds,
  o this one, special horse,
    ▪ had defeated the virus.

▪ It had turned the corner
  o and was on its way to a full recovery.

▪ That’s when it happened.
  o Dr. Ruh (roo) took a sledgehammer
    ▪ and struck that beautiful horse
      ▪ a deathblow between the eyes.

▪ In what I am sure was a grisly scene,
  o the scientist proceeded to draw
    ▪ all the blood from the veins of this animal
      ▪ that had been infected with
        o the black diphtheria
          ▪ but had overcome it.

▪ The scientists then drove
  o as fast as they could
    ▪ to the hospital in Paris
  o where they forced their way past
    ▪ the superintendent and the guards
  o and went into the infection ward
    ▪ where three hundred babies lay,
      ▪ set aside from the general population,
        o waiting to die from black diphtheria.

▪ With the blood of the overcomer in hand,
  o Doctor Ruh (roo) and his associates
    ▪ forcibly inoculated every one of the babies.

▪ **All but three of those babies lived**
  o and recovered completely,
    ▪ **thanks to one miracle horse**
      ▪ *who gave it all*
        o *so that they could overcome.*
The Daily Battle

- There is a battle going on,
  - all around us this morning
    - that most of us are not really aware of.
- It is a life and death struggle
  - that is waged at the cellular level
    - against organisms one-trillionth of our size.
- Medical author Ronald Glasser once said
  - “No matter how we may wish to view ourselves,
    - despite all our fantasies
      - of grandeur and dominion,
        - all our fragile human successes,
    - the real struggle has always been
      - against bacteria and viruses,
        - against enemies so small
          - we can’t even see them
            - with our natural eye!”
- In the words of the Psalmist,
  - each of us is fearfully and wonderfully made.
- Our bodies are equipped,
  - by the hand of our creator,
    - with the innate ability to do battle,
      - to wage war in this realm of germ warfare.
- There are over 50 billion white blood cells
  - being circulated through your body right now.
- That great army has one job,
  - to protect you from invaders.
- When you cut your finger
  - and germs are introduced into your body,
    - they are instantly assaulted by these cells.
  - The means and method of this warfare
    - is mind boggling.
  - The first thing that happens
    - is that one of your white blood cells
      - makes contact with the offending germ.
  - In that instant, when the two touch,
    - an exchange takes place
      - as your white blood cells record
        - a vast amount of data,
      - including the size, shape,
        - and chemical composition,
          - of the invader.
  - Then it rushes off to a Lymph Node
    - where that data is harvested
• by the lymphatic system.
  o In just a few moments
    ▪ the lymphatic system compares this data
    ▪ with its own genetic memory
      o in hopes that this particular invader
        ▪ has been met
        ▪ and conquered before.
  • When we are born,
    o our bodies come preprogrammed
      ▪ with antiviral information
      ▪ that is shared with us
        o by our birth mothers.
    o Once the intruder is identified
      ▪ the lymphatic system begins immediately
        ▪ to mass-produce antibodies
          o designed to combat this
            ▪ specific threat to the body.
  • However occasionally a situation arises
    o where our bodies encounter
      ▪ some intruder that they haven’t ever seen.
  • Neither the genetic info garnered from our mothers
    o nor our own personal experience
      ▪ has equipped us
        ▪ for this particular attacker.
    o The Lymphatic system struggles
      ▪ to manufacture a resistance
    o Your body fumbles around
      ▪ trying to find the right combination,
        ▪ trying and abandoning
          o formula after formula.
  • As our bodies struggle
    o to develop a workable defense,
      ▪ the invader spreads through our body
        ▪ replicating itself
          o and attacking our different vital systems.
    o **Our 50 billion white blood cells**
      ▪ step powerlessly aside
        ▪ because they are not equipped
          o to deal with the intruder.
    o When that happens
      ▪ sickness ravages our body.

**The Scurge (scourge) of Humanity**
  • It is not my desire this morning
to teach a microbiology class,
  • but rather to point out
that things physical
  • often serve as a microcosm
    • of things spiritual.
• When God created Adam
  • he gave him physical dominion
    • over all the earth
  • Adam was given the authority
    • and means to govern his world
  • He was equipped with the capacity
    • to deal with the myriad of situations
      • that might arise
• But Adam was not given
  • the spiritual capacity to deal with sin.
• He was not equipped to combat sin on his own.
  • Nowhere within all of the resources of humanity
    • is there the capacity to deal with sin
      • or its dreadful effects.
  • Sin, my friend, is a physical and spiritual toxin
    • that you don’t have the capacity to deal with.
      • Will Power alone
        • cannot conquer sin.
      • Wisdom and knowledge alone
        • are not enough.
      • Deductive reasoning by itself
        • cannot solve the sin problem.
  • When sin gets a grip on you,
    • you aren’t equipped
      • with the ability to cast it off.
  • Like it or not,
    • We simply are not prepared
      • to deal with sin on our own.
• This is why sin affects
  • every facet of human existence.
    • Our intentions may be good,
      • We may have the grandest of ideals
    • We carefully plot and plan
      • to improve our world.
    • But everything humanity does
      • is tainted by sin.
• The Bible is replete with examples of this truth:
  • The prophet Jeremiah once said,
    • “The heart is desperately wicked,
• who can know it?"
  o The Apostle Paul lamented
    ▪ that there was no inherent good in him.
  o He said the desire to do good is in me
    ▪ but I don’t have the capacity to perform it!
  o He goes on to say in Romans 7:21-23,
    ▪ reading from the New Living Translation:
  o I have discovered this principle of life—
    ▪ that when I want to do what is right,
      • I inevitably do what is wrong.
  o I love God’s law with all my heart.
    ▪ But there is another power within me
      • that is at war with my mind.
  o This power makes me
    ▪ a slave to the sin
      • that is still within me.

• You are not equipped
  o to win the battle with sin.
• You don’t have within you
  o the capacity to overcome it.
    ▪ You may think you can handle it
      • You may think you have it under control
  o But the truth of the matter is,
    ▪ you can’t control sin.
      • It controls you.
• The word of God is blunt when it says,
  o in James 1:15,
    ▪ “sin, when it is finished,
      • bringeth forth death.”
• Did you hear that?
  o You don’t get finished with sin...
    ▪ You can’t just pick it up
      • and put it back down again
        ▪ whenever you would like...
  o No, Sin get’s finished with you
    ▪ And sin, when it is finished
      • Will take your life!
        ▪ It sucks everything good out of your life
          • Then it steals life itself from you!
• Solomon in the book of Proverbs
  o describes the young man who,
    ▪ ignorant of the pervasive nature of sin,
      • heaps unto his bosom coals of fire
        ▪ but thinks he can walk away
• without being burned.
  o Make no mistake about it, friend,
    ▪ sin will burn you.
      • You can’t just flirt with it
        o and walk away unharmed.
        o You don’t have the capacity to deal
          ▪ with the devastating impact of sin!

• The deadly diphtheria virus
  o may have been
    ▪ the scourge (scourge) of childhood
      • but sin is
        o the scourge (scourge) of the human existence.
  o It is your constant continual enemy,
    ▪ It stalks you and pursues you.
      • It is constantly warring against you.
        o Its ultimate goal is to kill you.
  ▪ However, that’s not the end of the story.

The Blood Of An Overcomer
• Missionary Doctor Paul Brand tells the story
  o of a time when there was
    ▪ a measles outbreak in Vellore, Illinois.
• His oldest daughter contracted the deadly disease
  o and, in those days
    ▪ before there was a treatment plan for measles,
  o the doctors informed him
    ▪ that the only way to save her life
      • was to find someone
        o who had already encountered the measles
          ▪ and had overcome them.

• When a survivor was found,
  o someone who had already
    ▪ conquered the deadly disease,
      ▪ the doctors drew a vial of their blood.
  o Once the red blood cells were removed
    ▪ from the vial of blood,
      ▪ what was left behind
        ▪ is what is called a convalescent serum.
  o Contained within this serum
    ▪ is the genetic battle plan
      ▪ for defeating the virus.
  o Only the blood of an overcomer
    ▪ can provide the body
      ▪ with the genetic code necessary
• The good news, on this Easter Sunday morning,
  o is that while you are not equipped
    ▪ to overcome sin,
      • there is a cure!
  o Paul ended his lament in Romans 7
    ▪ with these words:
      • “Who will free me
        o from this life that is dominated
          ▪ by sin and death?”
  o Then he answered his own question:
    ▪ Deliverance comes
      • through Jesus Christ our Lord!
  o Thankfully, there is a cure for sin!

Wise Blood
• There is a sense
  o that the older you get
    ▪ and the more battles your body wins,
      • the more educated your blood becomes.
  o This “wise blood” is invaluable to you
    ▪ because it contains within it
      • the genetic memory
        o of the foes you have already defeated.
• When I was a child I had Chicken Pox.
  o Years later, as an adult,
    ▪ I was exposed to the virus again
      • at a time when my immune system
        o was already weak
    ▪ and the Chicken Pox Virus
      • manifested itself
        o in the form of a painful condition
          ▪ called shingles.
• My doctor immediately
  o gave me a dose of steroids.
• Here’s the neat thing:
  o Steroids don’t fight the virus.
    ▪ The doctor didn’t give them to me
      • To cure me.
    ▪ He gave them to me
      • To help me!
  o Because the steroids would provide
    ▪ a burst of energy to my lymphatic system
      • to overcome it’s own weakened state
Notes by Pastor Tony McCall
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• and rise to meet the challenge.

  • Everything my body needed
    o to overcome the invading virus,
      ▪ was already stored in its genetic memory.
    o My body only needed the energy
      ▪ to mass-produce the antibodies
        • necessary to combat this virus!

  • The incredible thing about blood,
    o the thing that Dr. Felix Ruh (ruu) figured out
      ▪ is that the lessons it has learned
        • can be shared!
  • The convalescent serum,
    o containing the powerful antibodies to overcome
      ▪ can be transferred from one person to another.

  • When it comes to the sin problem,
    o there is only one who has ever overcome sin.
      ▪ He was born to die.
  • He was introduced into this world
    o in order to lay down his life
      ▪ at the old rugged cross.
      ▪ He shed his blood.
        o He gave it all.

  • And because he did,
    o the power of his blood
      ▪ can be transferred to you and to me!
  • The blood of Jesus
    o is blood that has already defeated sin.
      ▪ Contained within it
        ▪ is everything that you need
          o to become an overcomer!

  • John writes about the redeemed,
    o in the book of Revelation,
      ▪ and declares that
        ▪ “they overcame by the blood of the Lamb!”
    o There is only one thing that will overcome sin...
      ▪ That is the blood of the overcomer!

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

• God wasn’t satisfied
  o to watch you stumble through life
    ▪ Trying in vain
      ▪ to deal with the effects of sin
• Instead he made himself a sacrifice for our sins
  o He subjected himself
    ▪ to the atmosphere of our fallen world
  o He allowed himself
    ▪ to be tempted,
      • just as we are.
  o He met sin in its own environment,
    ▪ allowed it to stalk Him
      • in this fallen world,
        o where sin had the upper hand.
  o But he emerged without sin.
    ▪ He walked through this world,
      • in flesh and blood,
        o and was tempted just like us.
  o But he never yielded to sin.
    ▪ Where we were destined to fail,
      • because of the legacy of Adam,
        o heaven’s only spotless lamb
          ▪ triumphed over sin.

• He conquered it.
  o He was tried and tested
    ▪ and He emerged victoriously.
  o He emerged
    ▪ with the spiritual DNA
      • for conquering sin.

• Then it happened.
  o He who overcame.
    ▪ He who triumphed
      • where all others had failed.
  o He went to the cross.
    ▪ He laid down his life
      • for you and for me.
  o He gave it all!
    ▪ It wasn’t enough just to overcome sin
      • He had to die so others could live.
    ▪ His precious blood
      • That blood that can wash away sin
        o Had to be shed for all of humanity.
  o So Jesus Christ,
    ▪ holding nothing back,
      • gave it all on Calvary!

• The writer of Hebrews tells us why he went to the cross:

  Hebrews 2:14-18
Forasmuch then as the children (that is you and me) are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same;

- He became our kinsman.
- He took part in the same experience that you and I share.

that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil:

- Through his death,
  - he destroyed the hold
    - that the devil had over us!

And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

- All of our lifetime.
  - All our life.
    - All our living.
- We have been subject to bondage from sin!

For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.
Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

- It is precisely because
  - He was made like us,
    - because God became a man,
      - that he was able to make
        - reconciliation for our sins.

For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

- Because he himself suffered being tempted,
  - he is well able to secure us
    - who are constantly subject to temptation.
- He shed his blood
  - so that you and I could be delivered
    - from the terrible grip of sin!
- We were subject to a lifetime of bondage
  - but his blood contains the key
    - to overcoming sin.
• He gave it all
  o so that you and I
    ▪ could be set free!

• He gave it all
  o so that we could overcome!

What Can Wash Away My Sin?
• The old songwriter posed the question:
  o What can wash away my sin?
    ▪ What can make me whole again?
  o The answer was:
    ▪ Not my will,
      • not my power,
        ▪ not my strength
      • not anything that I can do
  o He said, Nothing BUT THE BLOOD of Jesus!
    ▪ Oh! precious is the flow
      ▪ That makes me white as snow;
    ▪ No other fount I know,
      ▪ Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
• If the song is sung in its entirety,
  o the singer will repeat
    ▪ the ultimate answer to the sin question
      • 18 times:
        ▪ "Nothing but the blood of Jesus."
  o For my pardon, this I see,
    ▪ Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
  o For my cleansing this my plea,
    ▪ Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
  o Nothing can for sin atone,
    ▪ Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
  o Not of good that I have done,
    ▪ Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
  o This is all my hope and peace,
    ▪ Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
  o This is all my righteousness,
    ▪ Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
  o Now by this I’ll overcome,
    ▪ Nothing but the blood of Jesus,
  o Now by this I’ll reach my home,
    ▪ Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
  o Glory! Glory! This I sing,
    ▪ Nothing but the blood of Jesus,
  o All my praise for this I bring,
    ▪ Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can wash away my sin?
  - Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
What can make me whole again?
  - Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

CLOSE
- When John stood in eternity future
  - He saw a great multitude,
    - which no man could number,
    - of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues,
  - they stood before the throne,
    - before the Lamb,
      - clothed with white robes,
        - and palms in their hands;
- And one of the elders asked John,
  - What are these which are arrayed in white robes?
    - and whence came they?
- And he said to me,
  - These are they
    - which came out of great tribulation,
      - and have washed their robes,
        - and made them white
          - in the blood of the Lamb.
- One of these days,
  - a multitude will stand in eternity
    - clothed in garments
      - that were washed white
        - in the blood of the lamb
  - and they will declare
    - that they overcame,
      - not by the strength of human will,
        - but by the blood of Jesus!
- Listen, there’s not a 12-Step program
  - anywhere in the world
    - that can set you free
      - from the power of sin.
- Your will isn’t strong enough.
  - Your determination will not get you through.
- You might be able to break
  - an addiction to drugs or alcohol
    - or pornography or gambling
  - but, mark the words of this preacher,
    - you can never break the bondage to sin.
  - Not without the blood of Jesus!
- The devil, the one who holds the power of death,
o will tell you that you can never
  ▪ be free from his dominion.
• Once a sinner, always a sinner.
  o He will tell you that there is no cure for sin,
    ▪ there is no way to ever break free from it.
• He will tell you that you will always live
  o under the bondage of sin.
• But I’m here, this morning, to tell you
  o that the devil is liar!
    ▪ There is a cure.
    • There is hope.
• The blood of Jesus Christ, alone,
  o has the power to set you free!!!
    ▪ You need the blood of the overcomer!
    • I need the blood of the overcomer!
• What can wash away my sins?
  o Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
    ▪ What can make me whole again?
      • Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
• On this Easter Sunday morning,
  o Let me invite you to an altar.
• The blood of Jesus is flowing through this place
  o If you want to be set free
    ▪ If you want to wash your garments clean
      • His blood is your only hope
      • His blood is your defense
      • His blood...