The Blood of The Overcomer

Revelation 12:11  And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

The Daily Battle

- Each day we live at the mercy of 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!”
- Over a million Christian Pilgrims visited Rome for Easter in 1348. 90% of them went home infected with what became known as the great plague of the 14th Century. Before it was finished, 1/3 of the people in Europe died.
  - Ships drifted crewless at sea, vast estates went untended and whole communities became ghost towns. Because of one small self-replicating virus.
- This scenario has repeated itself time after time in human existence.
  - The Spanish explorer Cortes inadvertently introduced smallpox to the Aztec Indians in the course of 2 years, 4 million of them died.
  - In Missouri the Mandan Indian tribe was reduced from 30,000 to 30 people because of an encounter of smallpox.
- Today, modern nations do not fear such an outbreak because our medical technology has equipped us with the ability to vaccinate our people, but even in the 21st century there are viral diseases like Marburg and Ebola that are capable of producing viral outbreaks that have the potential to become the great plague of the 21st century.

Our bodies were created with the capacity to do battle in this realm of germ warfare.

- There are over 50 billion white blood cells being circulated through your body right now.
  - This army has one job, to protect you from invaders.
  - When you cut your finger and foreign substances are introduced into your body, they are instantly assaulted by these cells.
    - The first thing that happens is one of the cells touches the intruder.
    - In that momentary exchange the defender records a vast amount of data about the attacker: size, shape, and chemical composition.
  - Then it rushes off to a Lymph Node where that data is harvested by the lymphatic system.
    - In just a few moments the lymphatic system compares this data with it’s own genetic memory in hopes that this particular invader has been met and conquered before.
- When we are born, our bodies come preprogrammed with antiviral information shared by our birth mothers.
Once the intruder is identified the lymphatic system begins immediately to mass-produce antibodies designed to combat this specific threat to the body.

However occasionally a situation arises where our bodies encounter some intruder that they haven’t ever seen.

- Neither the genetic info garnered from our mothers nor our own personal experience has equipped us for this particular attacker.
  - The Lymphatic system struggles to manufacture a resistance
    - Your body fumbles around trying to find the right combination, trying and abandoning formula after formula.
  - As our bodies struggle to develop a workable defense, the invader spreads through our body replicating itself and attacking our different vital systems.

In the case of the 14th century plague the culprit virus had been imported from Asia and European immune systems had never seen it before.

- When this happens the body struggles to overcome something it was not equipped to deal with.
  - Our 50 billion white blood cells step powerlessly aside because they are not equipped to deal with the intruder.
  - The sickness ravages our body.

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 man he gave him physical dominion over all the earth
  - Man had the authority and means to govern his world
  - Man was equipped with the capacity to deal with the myriad of situations that might arise
- But man was not given the spiritual capacity to deal with sin.
  - Man was not equipped to combat sin on his own.
  - Nowhere within all of the resources of man 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 are not enough.
    - Deductive reasoning cannot resolve the sin problem.
    - When sin gets a grip on you, you aren’t equipped with the ability to cast it off.
  - Man simply is not prepared to deal with sin.
- For this reason, it affects every facet of human existence.
  - No matter how noble man’s intentions, no matter how good his ideas, everything he does is tainted by sin.
  - The bible is replete with examples of this truth:
The heart is desperately wicked, who can know it, says one writer.
Another Biblical author laments that “there is nothing good in me.”
Paul said I sense another member within me warring against me
When I try to do good, evil is constantly with me.

You are not equipped to win the battle with sin.

- You don’t have within you the capacity to overcome it.
  - You may think you can handle it
  - You may think you have it under control
  - But the truth of the matter is, you can’t control it
    - It is controlling you.
- The word of God pulls no punches, “sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”
  - You don’t get finished with sin – not on your own you don’t.
  - You can’t just pick it up and put it back down again…
    - Sin get’s finished with you
    - And sin, when it is finished takes your life!
- Solomon describes the young man in proverbs who, ignorant of the pervasive nature of sin, heaps unto his bosom coals of fire but thinks he can emerge without being burned.
  - I must tell you this morning, sin will burn you.
  - You can’t just flirt with it and walk away unharmed – anymore than the young man can heap coals of fire to his chest and expect not to be burned.
  - You don’t have the capacity to deal with sin’s effects!
    - It is your constant continual enemy,
    - It stalks you and pursues you,
    - It’s ultimate goal is to kill you.
- Thankfully, there is a cure for sin!

Missionary Doctor Paul Brand tells the story of a time when there was a measles outbreak in Vellore, Illinois. His oldest daughter contracted the deadly disease and he was informed by the pediatrician that the only way to save her life was to find someone who had already encountered the measles and overcome them.

- When a survivor was found then a vial of their blood would be drawn.
  - Once the red blood cells were removed what remains is called a convalescent serum.
  - Contained within this serum is the genetic battle plan for defeating the virus.
- So they went looking for the blood of an overcomer!
  - When an overcomer was found, then their blood would provide the body with the genetic code to destroy the virus.
- The lymphatic system that, before had been fumbling about without the proper knowledge, would now go into full production mode producing the specific antibody designed to deal with the specific viral threat of the measles.
Can I tell you today that while you are not equipped to overcome sin, there is an overcomer who has made his blood available!

- They overcame by the blood of the lamb
  - There is only one thing that will overcome sin…
  - The blood of the overcomer!
  - The incredible thing about blood is that the lessons it has learned can be shared!
  - The blood of an overcomer can be transferred to others in order to make them overcomers too.
  - The writer of Hebrews said, “Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness." (Hebrews 9:22)
  - The good news is that you don’t have to shed your own blood, as a matter of fact your blood won’t do.
  - But the blood of Jesus Christ is the precious blood of the only spotless Lamb of God.
  - And the good news this morning is that his blood can cover you!
  - The blood of Jesus is more than enough.
  - Heb 2:10 Tells us that the captain of our salvation was made perfect through suffering.
  - Jesus encountered the sin problem and overcame it.

We don’t have a savior that is ignorant of our struggles

- We don’t have a high priest that can’t be touched by our infirmities
  - Jesus was in all points tempted like we are…
  - yet without sin!
- Can I tell you this morning, we have the blood of an overcomer!
- God wasn’t satisfied 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
  - He subjected himself to the atmosphere of our fallen world
  - He allowed himself to be tempted, just as we are
  - He didn’t just emerge without sin,
  - He emerged with the formula for overcoming sin.
- He emerged with the spiritual DNA for conquering sin
  - He shed his blood so that you and I could follow in his footsteps!
  - His blood provides the means to overcome sin
- Hebrews 2:17 tells us that because God became a man he is able to be a merciful and faithful high priest and to make reconciliation for our sins.
- The next verse tells us that, because he himself suffered being tempted, he is able to secure those that are tempted.
- Because he was tempted…
  - He is able to secure those that are tempted!
- That’s me! That’s you!
- We deal with temptation.
  - Our hope is in the blood of the overcomer!
- He did it, and by his blood, he empowers me to do it as well!
• I can live a victorious life
• I can overcome sin
• By the blood of the lamb!

Wise Blood.
• There is a sense 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 of the foes you have already overcome.
• When I was a child I had Chicken Pox, as an adult I was exposed to the virus again at a time when my immune system was already weak and the Chicken Pox Virus manifested itself in the form of a painful condition called shingles.
  o My doctor immediately gave me a dose of steroids, not because steroids fight the virus, they don’t
    ▪ But because the steroids would provide a burst of energy to my lymphatic system to overcome it’s own weakened state and rise to meet the challenge.
  o Everything my body would need to overcome the invading virus, it already had stored in its genetic memory.
    ▪ It only needed the energy to mass-produce the antibodies necessary to combat its foe!
• Hundreds of times a day your body contacts some known pathogen and immediately draws from its own experience to overcome it!
  o Every enemy your body meets it stores a genetic testimony to the fact that it knows how to defeat it!
• Our text says that they overcame by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony!
  o There is power in the simple remembrance of what god has already done!
• David stood before Goliath and ran through his testimony list:
  o God delivered me from the bear
  o He delivered me from the lion
  o He will deliver you into my hand also!

• There’s power in your testimony!
  o When temptation comes your way and sin attempts to assail you, you need to remember what God has done for you!
    ▪ You’ve seen this enemy before!
    ▪ You’ve overcome this temptation before!
    ▪ You can do it again, by the blood of the lamb!
    ▪ There’s power this morning in your testimony.
    ▪ There’s power in reminding yourself, God delivered me before he’ll deliver me again.

• The old songwriter posed the question after reading Hebrews 9:22…
• What can wash away my sin? What can make me whole again?
  o Not my faith,
  o not my will,
  o not my power,
  o not my strength
  o not anything that I can do
• He said, Nothing BUT THE BLOOD of Jesus!
  o *What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;*
  o *What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*
  o *Oh! precious is the flow That makes me white as snow;*
  o *No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

• That’s why a multitude will stand in eternity clothed in garments that were washed white in the blood of the lamb and declare that they overcame, not by faith, nor by human will, but by the blood of Jesus!

**Cloae**

• In the year 1802 smallpox broke out among the Indians and Spanish settlers of Bogota Colombia.
  o Aware that the disease could easily decimate an unprotected population, the ruling council of Bogota petitioned Spain’s Kig for help.
  o Spain’s people had been vaccinated but in that day and age when vaccinations were made by transferring living antibodies in fresh blood the big question was how to transport the vaccine.
  o Finally, one of the king’s advisors came up with a daring and innovative plan.
  o The *Royal Maritime Expedition of the Vaccine* was born.
  o A Spanish ship, the *Maria Pita*, left port with a human cargo of 22 boys aged 3 to nine from a nearby orphanage.
  o Doctors vaccinated five boys before they left then exposed them to the virus.
  o Those 22 boys would form a human chain to keep the virus, and the vaccine alive as they crossed the ocean.
  o The expedition was a success and the antibodies were successfully transferred across the vast ocean.
• Every one of us needs to be inoculated today against the influence of sin.
• We need the blood of the overcomer!
• We need to let that blood work in our lives today.
  o The good news is that God doesn’t know the confines of space and time.
  o When you come to an alter this morning and repent and ask God to help you overcome a sin problem.
  o God possesses the singular ability to reach back through time and bring the blood of calvary to you.
  o Fresh blood, the blood of an overcomer, is applied to your life at an alter of repentance.
I learned a long time ago that we have cause for repentance on a regular basis.

I go before the throne daily and plead that blood over my life and so should you.

That’s not a license or an invitation to live in sin, it’s a statement of simple truth that, even at my best, I leave some things undone.

We would all do well to find a place of repentance on a regular basis.

On this Sunday morning I’m going to ask the whole church to come to an alter of repentance.

If you are here this morning and you are struggling with a sin problem, don’t miss this opportunity.

Come to this alter and let the blood of Jesus work in your life.

It’s the only thing that will break the hold of sin.

Your will isn’t strong enough, your determination won’t do it, all the 12 step programs in the world can’t get it done but the blood of Jesus is more than enough to overcome sin in your life.

As the church comes, I’m inviting everyone to join us around the alter this morning.

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again? 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.
For my pardon, this I see,Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing this my plea,Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Nothing can for sin atone,Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Not of good that I have done,Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my hope and peace,Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness,Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Now by this I’ll overcome—Nothing but the blood of Jesus,
Now by this I’ll reach my home—Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Glory! Glory! This I sing—Nothing but the blood of Jesus,
All my praise for this I bring—Nothing but the blood of Jesus.