

They overcame him

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

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.

Revelation 12:10-11

In this chapter we find John's vision of the archangel Michael and his angels defeating the dragon and his angels, and the announcement of them being cast out of heaven to the earth. Though much symbolism is employed here, the characters are clearly identified. In particular, the dragon is described with multiple names, including that old serpent, the Devil, and Satan. But perhaps the most implicating is his description as the accuser of our brethren, when we consider the potential impact on all of us as brethren through faith in Christ. As if having an enemy and tempter is not enough, he also stands to accuse believers before God continually, every time we fail in our faithfulness. And unfortunately, we can provide plenty to accuse.

Yet John provides the remedy for this in the very next line, as he pronounces the brethren as overcomers of this fierce accuser. They overcame him first by the blood of the Lamb. The glory of God's redemption through Christ's precious sacrifice cancels the accusation, to declare the believer positionally not guilty, because the price has been paid. Coupled with this provision made by Christ alone, they also overcame him by the word of their testimony. This is the word of every believer, who can testify that His blood availed, personally, for me when I believed. Such faith loves not this life, but reckons that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.

Although our daily struggles in this body of death can often give reason for accusation by our adversary, we can look to overcome by our faith in His precious blood to sanctify our position and our daily walk in His word, and to cast down the accuser. As one has said, "the next time the devil reminds you of your past, just remind him of his future." We can, with the apostle Paul, thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord to deliver us from this body of death to walk in the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.