

Intro:

XVII. Recognizing an Overcomer

A. Faith in the Truth - vs 1a, 4-5

1. Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ

a. a foundational mark of a believer

i. *pisteuo* - to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), credit; to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ):--believe(-r), commit (to trust), put in trust with - *pres tense*

ii. *Christos* - anointed, the Messiah, an epithet of Jesus:--Christ.

iii. implies all that is true about Him - **1Jo 2:22-23; 4:2, 15**

b. is born of God

i. *gegennetai* - to procreate, to regenerate:--bear, beget, be born, bring forth, conceive, be delivered of, gender, make, spring.

ii. lit. out of God has been begotten - **Jo 1:12-13; 1 Jo 3:1**

iii. *perfect tense* - finished action in the past with continuing results

c. lit. - whoever is believing that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten of God

i. Shows that continual faith comes from being born again

ii. Believing - pres. tense; born of God - perf tense - **Mt 13:5-8, 19-23**

iii. John has already said that those who leave, manifest tht they are not one of us - **1 Jo 2:19**

2. For whatever is born of God - vs 4 - see above

a. overcomes the world.

i. *nikao* - to subdue:--conquer, overcome, prevail, get the victory.

ii. World - *cosmos*, Satan's realm, - **1 Jo 2:15**

b. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

i. our faith - the faith of us

ii. the personal faith of the individuals - **1Jo 3:9; 4:4**

- immature faith - includes many failures, but never stops believing

- mature faith - sees many more victories, understands from where the victories come

3. Who is he who overcomes the world,

a. but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God - continuing faith - 1 Co 15:57; Ro 7:24-25

b. even with doubts and failures, real faith continues

B. Love for God and Others - vs 1b

1. The primary mark of an overcomer is doctrinal

a. don't know or believe truth w/understanding, failure will happen

b. knowing and believing truth w/understanding, victories will come

2. The secondary mark of an overcomer is moral characteristic;

a. an overcomer loves God - "everyone who loves Him who begot"

b. an overcomer loves God's children - also loves him who is begotten of Him.

- John - **1 Jo 3:10,14,17,23; 4:7-8,12,20-21**

- Paul - **Ro 13:8,10; Ga 5:14**

- James - **Jas 2:8**

c. Though out the NT love is commanded - **Jo 13:34-35; 15:12,17; Ga 5:13; 1**

Th 4:9; Heb 13:1; 1 Pet 1:22

C. Obedience to the Word - vs 2-3

1. By this we know that we love the children of God,

a. the corollary to vs 1b

i. just as it is impossible to love God w/o loving His children

ii. It is also impossible to love His children apart from loving Him

b. the proof of genuine faith

i. when we love God

ii. and keep His commandments. - **Jo 14:15,21,23; 15:10; 2Jo 1:6**

- *tereo* - to guard (from loss or injury, by keeping the eye upon), to note (a prophecy; to fulfil a command); to detain (in custody; to maintain); to withhold (for personal ends; to keep unmarried); to withhold (for personal ends; to keep unmarried)--hold fast, keep(- er), (pre-, re-)serve, watch.

- pres. tense

-indicates the continual practicing of keeping of God's commandments

-Doesn't indicate perfection but the direction of their lives

-Refers more to the heart attitude - **Mic 6:8**

2. For this is the love of God,

a. that we keep His commandments.

i. Obedience is foundational to Jesus' teaching - **Jo 14:21, 23-24; 15:10,14**

ii. and the Apostles teaching - **Ac 5:32; Ro 1:5; 15:18; 16:25-26; Heb 5:9; 1 Pe 1:1-2,14,22**

b. And His commandments are not burdensome. Mt 11:28-30

i. b/c of a change in heart, the believer wants to do what God says - Ps 119:14,16,24,97,103

ii. We want to do them b/c we love God

c. overcomers have promises that are promised to all believers

i. Re 2:7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." - everlasting life

ii. Re 2:11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." - 2nd death for unbelievers - Rev 20:14-15

iii. Re 2:17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of **the hidden manna** to eat. And I will give him **a white stone**, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

- God's supplying for the needs of His people

- given to victorious athletes - admittance pass for a special celebration

iv. Re 2:26-28 "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations-- 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' --as I also have received from My Father; "and I will give him the morning star.

- to reign with Him - 2Ti 2:12; Rev 20:6

- the fullness of Jesus - Re 22:16

v. Re 3:5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

vi. Re 3:12 "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. - Rev 21:9

vii. Re 3:21 "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. - reigning with Him