

Call to Worship: 1 Chronicles 29:11

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 14:1-23a

Sermon: "You Have Overcome the Wicked One" 1 John 2:13

Benediction: 1 Chronicles 29:12-13

INTRODUCTION

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

1 John 2:4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 2:9 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.

1 John 2:11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

These things our Lord's apostle, John, needed to write to us:

We need to hear these things, so that we can make right evaluations of people who present themselves as religious.

The unbelievers who are with us need to hear these things, so that, by God's grace, they may be convinced of the truth and convicted, the secrets of their hearts being revealed, that they may fall down on their faces before God to worship Him through Jesus Christ.

But these things are hard to hear. They are difficult to bear. Hearing such stark descriptions of those who pretend to faith but are really deceived and deceitful is hard on the conscience of the Christian. Is he talking about me? I thought I was a disciple of Jesus Christ, but am I just a liar---believing lies and telling lies?

Our Lord being gentle to us, His Spirit inspired John to pause from his description of darkness and lies and hatred among false brethren to give us a few words of comfort and encouragement.

We have heard already encouragement addressed to us inasmuch as we are little children spiritually, especially those who have not been Christians very long.

We have heard already the encouragement addressed to us who are, in a sense, the church's fathers---those who have been in the faith a long time, and are the ones expected to know the truths of the faith the most fully.

Today we hear the encouragement addressed to us who are, in a sense, the church's young men, spiritually.

TEXT

1 John 2:12-14

BODY

I. What John Means By Addressing the Church's "Young Men"

- A. The apostle has mentioned little children and fathers already; young men are naturally the others not yet mentioned
- B. He does not mean "young men" literally, those males 17 to 30 years old, or something like that; although there often is overlap, so that "young men" spiritually sometimes are also "young men" physically
- C. G3495 *neaniskos* - you can hear the "neo" in the word
- D. The young men, spiritually, are those who are not the old men or fathers: Acts 2:17 "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your **young men** shall see visions, and your **old men** shall dream dreams;
 - 1. these are not old men spiritually, but young men
 - 2. in this poem, not fathers, but young men
- E. The young men, spiritually, are those who are suited for basic work requiring strength, but not requiring accomplishments more characteristic of fathers: Acts 5:10 Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the **young men** came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband.
 - 1. What work was needed here, and done by the young men?
 - a) carrying
 - b) digging
 - 2. What qualities of young men make them the ones called on for such work?
 - a) they are strong enough for such work
 - b) they are available for such work, because not suited to other work
 - 3. So, when taken spiritually, these are the Christians who are strong for doing work in the church that is basic, simple work; and they are available for it because they are not yet "fathers," who might be working in more advanced work
- F. The young men, spiritually, are those who are expected to be engaged in spiritual conflict: Mark 14:51-52 Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body. And the **young men** laid hold of him, (52) and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.
 - 1. the armed men who were sent to arrest Jesus were "young men"
 - 2. this agrees with the use of the word in the LXX, where the trained men of Abraham's household who fought the battle to save Lot, Abraham called by this word
 - a) they were commanded by Abraham, an old man or father

- G. So, there are those in the church who
 - 1. are not merely little children; they are mature compared with the newest, youngest Christians
 - 2. are not yet fathers; are not those longest in the faith, with decades of experience and knowledge and maturity
 - 3. they have strength to be used for work and for warfare
- II. The Encouraging Message in Its Short Form: You Have Overcome the Wicked One [ESV Evil One]
 - A. John is not writing to you because you have not overcome him; not because he thinks you have not overcome him; not because John thinks the wicked one is overcoming you, or has overcome you; but because he knows you have overcome the wicked one;
 - B. Those who are the young men in the church spiritually are those known to have overcome the wicked one
 - C. But what does he mean by “overcome the wicked one”? I looked through the bible, reading the places where suching things are mentioned, and I found a place we can read to understand the concept: Matthew 13:3-9
 - 1. 13:19 not those from whom the wicked one snatches away the word
 - 2. 13:20-21 not those who receive the word with joy, but do not endure
 - 3. 13:22 not those who are unfruitful because choked out by the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches
 - 4. 13:23 but those who hear the word and understand, and become fruitful
- III. The Encouraging Message in a Longer Form: You Are Strong and Have Overcome the Wicked One [ESV Evil One]
 - A. There is one other place in the bible where these two words occur together:
 Luke 11:21-22 When a **strong** [G2478 *ischuros*] man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. (22) But when a **stronger** [G2478 *ischuros*] than he comes upon him and **overcomes** [G3528 *nikao*] him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.
 - 1. the wicked one is strong, and has control of the soul of a man
 - 2. Jesus Christ, being stronger, overcomes the wicked one; that is, he drives out the wicked one, freeing the soul
 - B. The young men, spiritually, are those in whom Jesus Christ showed Himself strong to overcome the wicked one in them; and now have that power by His spirit to continue overcoming the wicked one
- IV. The Encouraging Message in Yet Another Form: The Word of God Abides in You, and You Have Overcome the Wicked One [ESV Evil One]
 - A. Looking ahead in 1 John, we can see this developed, and understand better what is meant here.
 - 1. 1 John 2:23-24 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. (24) Therefore let that **abide** in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from

the beginning **abides** in you, you also will **abide** in the Son and in the Father.

- a) the gospel of Jesus Christ has not just come in one ear and out the other, but has remained
 - b) the commands of Jesus Christ do not abide outside of you, but abides in you
2. 1 John 5:4-5 For whatever is born of God **overcomes** the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. (5) Who is he who **overcomes** the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
 - a) you are born of God; you believe in Jesus as the Son of God; that faith is the victory over the world
 - b) you, the born again believer in Jesus Christ, overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil by faith
- B. You, young men, have the word of God abiding in you; that is, you believe in Jesus as the Son of God; in this faith you have victory, overcoming the world, which is under the power of the wicked one

V. APPLICATION

- A. I have been talking about those who believe; but if you are unbelieving,
 1. consider your condition
 - a) not overcoming the devil, but under his power 1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.
 - b) not strong, but entirely without strength Romans 5:6 For when we were still without strength . . .
 2. consider what God has done for sinners by Jesus Christ
 - a) Romans 5:6-9 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. (7) For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. (8) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.
 - 3. so, then, turn from sin to follow Jesus; believe in Him as the Son of God; be baptized in His name; find in Him forgiveness of sins and victory over the wicked one
- B. Young men in the church, spiritually: Hear what John has written not as accusation, but as exhortation
- C. Wage warfare; fight; struggle; overcome the wicked one
 1. the world
 2. the flesh
- D. Do not act like little children when you are young men
 1. do not be tossed around by every wind of doctrine

2. do not reject meat that you must chew in favor of the familiar and easy milk you used to need

E. Do not think yourselves fathers when you are young men

1. Proverbs 20:29 The glory of young men is their strength, And the splendor of old men is their gray head.
2. it is not that the glory of young men is their gray head
3. much of what I thought when I was young in the faith I now no longer think
4. look not to other young men, but to fathers, as examples
 - a) the apprentice learns his trade not from the other apprentices, but from the master
 - b) the student learns his subjects not from the other students, but from the teacher

F. Do the work suitable to young men

1. watch and pray
2. listen and learn
3. exercise your faith

G. Aspire to be fathers; press toward that

CONCLUSION

I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one.

I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

through faith, Christ is in you
Christ in you makes you strong
being strong, you overcome the wicked one

young men [G3495 *neaniskos*]

strong G2478 *ischuros*

Luke 11:21-22 When a **strong [G2478 *ischuros*]** man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. (22) But when a **stronger [G2478 *ischuros*]** than he comes upon him and **overcomes [G3528 *nikao*]** him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.

Gill:

By the strong man, is meant the devil
“keepeth his palace” which is the corrupt heart of an unregenerate man
by his spoils are meant, the souls of men

the word of God abides G3306 *meno*

John 5:38 But you do not have His word **abiding** in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.

John 15:5-8 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (6) If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. (7) If you abide in Me, and **My words abide in you**, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. (8) By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

1 John 2:23-24 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. (24) Therefore let that **abide** in you which you heard from the

beginning. If what you heard from the beginning **abides** in you, you also will **abide** in the Son and in the Father.

overcome G3528 *nikao*

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

1 John 4:1-4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (2) By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, (3) and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. (4) You are of God, little children, and have **overcome** them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

1 John 5:4-5 For whatever is born of God **overcomes** the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. (5) Who is he who **overcomes** the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

"he that overcometh" is a refrain in the letters to the churches in Revelation

Call to Worship: 1 Chronicles 29:11

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 14:1-23a

Sermon: "You Have Overcome the Wicked One" 1 John 2:13

Benediction: 1 Chronicles 29:12-13

Prelude: Grace 193 "Wonderful, Merciful Savior"

Camille: flute

Noah: trumpet - see attached in E

Sarah: piano 1

Grace 85 "It Is Enough"

Camille: flute

Noah: trumpet - see attached in G

Sarah: piano 1

Trinity 122 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Camille: piano 1

Noah: trumpet - see attached in E

Trinity 176 "Not All the Blood of Beasts"

Camille: piano 1

Noah: trumpet - see attached in B

Sarah: sing

Trinity 702 "Wonderful Grace of Jesus"

Camille: piano 1

Noah: sing

Sarah: sing