

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Revelation 12:10-11**.
- B. To be an overcomer (of sin) is a theme of the book of Revelation.
- C. In our scripture text we see a three point formula for doing just that, despite what Satan is doing against us.
- D. Christians are to be overcomers until death.

I. SATAN, THE ACCUSOR OF THE BRETHREN.

- A. Revelation 12:9 gives a five-fold description of the devil:
 1. A dragon, would indicate a devourer, one who devours (1Pet. 5:8).
 2. A serpent, would indicate a beguiler, or trickster. Example: the garden of Eden and Eve.
 3. A devil, would indicate an accuser (see below).
 4. Satan, would indicate an adversary (Eph. 6:16).
 5. A deceiver, would indicate a liar (Jn. 8:44).
- B. Verse 10 says that Satan is accusing the brethren day and night, which means he is constantly pointing out our sins to God as we commit them.
- C. But God does not hold us responsible, as He is looking through the blood of Christ, if we are living faithful lives (1Jn. 1:6).
- D. It is the overcomer that lives the faithful life. Verse 11 gives a three-point formula for being that overcomer.

II. FIRST, BE WASHED IN THE BLOOD.

- A. Hebrews 9:22 says that without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness of sins.
- B. We must come into contact with that blood to have forgiveness.
- C. We must contact it initially, and continually (1Jn. 1:6).
- D. Jesus blood was shed at his death (Jn. 19:33,34).
- E. Therefore, we must come into contact with that death to come into contact with the blood. This is a symbolic union, and is initially accomplished at baptism (Rom. 6:3-4).
- F. Without this initial cleansing we cannot overcome sin.
- G. The continual cleansing after baptism comes from living faithfully (1Jn. 1:7).

III. SECOND, BY THE WORD OF TESTIMONY.

- A. We must be ready to give an answer for the hope that lies within us (1Pet. 3:15).
- B. We are to be workmen, accurately dividing the word of truth (2Tim. 2:15).
- C. The word of Christ is to dwell in us richly (Col. 3:16).
- D. We are to be teachers of God's word (Heb. 5:12; 2Tim. 2:2).
- E. The great commission must go forth into the world (Mk. 16:15-16; Eph. 3:10).

IV. THIRD, LOVE NOT OUR LIFE EVEN TO DEATH.

- A. We must live our life, not for self, but for Christ who died (Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21).
- B. Paul said that Christ is our life. Too many of us live our life and fit Christ in whenever we can. It should be the other way around (Col. 3:4).
- C. To be a disciple of Christ we are to deny self (Lk. 9:23).
- D. We are to be faithful even in our death, if it is required of us. This is the supreme sacrifice, but it is to be made to be an overcomer (Rev. 2:10).
Example: Stephen, and Antipas (Ac., 7:59,60; Rev. 2:13).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. These three points are in logical order:
 1. Be saved by the blood of Jesus (become a Christian).
 2. Be saved by the word of testimony (preach and teach with your life and word).
 3. Be saved by being obedient unto death (be faithful always).
- B. By doing these things, Satan may accuse but it will be to no avail.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.