

Men's Weekend – September 17 – 19, 2021 – “More than Conquerers.” – Jeff Jackson

Romans 8:31 - ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. ³⁴ Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate US from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

When we say we are more than conquerors, most say that we are going to conquer what we're suffering at the moment. Is that really the point?

Luke 24:13 – road to Emmaus. They were hoping... They thought it would happen a certain way.

v. 25 – O, foolish ones, slow of heart to believe all the prophets have spoken. Cherry-picked texts. We have done this with Romans 8:37.

v. 27 – beginning at Moses...summary Bible study with the guys. He was to suffer and die before he rules as King.

v. 36 – supposed they had seen a spirit. A bodily resurrection. Ghosts don't eat! Validated the bodily resurrection. Like but not like the bodies we all have. These are the words I spoke to you. They didn't have the ability to interpret and understand it. All things that must be fulfilled.v.

v. 45 – opened their understanding that they might understand the scriptures. God’s honor system is almost always polar opposite to the world’s honor system. They needed to understand the OT in a new way. They needed to have Jesus interpret for them.

Scripture interpretation is always influenced by our experiences.

Sometimes to do the things you are called to do, you need to see what you already know with a different lens.

v. 46 - It is written and necessary to become a reality.

1. Christ to suffer and rise from dead the 3rd day. New information to them. Their hope influenced the way they read the Scriptures. Suffering was part of the plan. Not pleasing, not comfortable. He had to die. Had to be bodily resurrected from the dead and not die again.

v. 47 – 2. Repentance and remission of sins should be preached to all ethnic groups. Made the case that God loves non-Gentiles.

This is the character of God. He sought us out, hunted us down. Character of man, hiding from God, then blame God for their sins. “The woman you gave me.” Blame God for the victimhood you find yourself in.

God’s heart for all people in the call of Abraham. God loves all people and wants them to come to know them.

God let’s Joseph’s brothers sell him. Joseph was the first official missionary. Forced to learn a new language, learn a new religion, but stays tracking with God. Egyptians recognized it.

Then Moses. That the Egyptians will know I am God.

Psalms – let the nations be glad.... I will be exalted among the nations....

Solomon’s dedication of Temple. 2 Chronicles 6:32 – when the stranger and foreigner come to this place, answer the prayer.... They take God’s glory back to their nations.

Acts 8 – Ethiopian eunuch...roots back to dedication of the Temple.

They had to see the scripture in a new and accurate way.

If the reality of suffering is such a pre-eminent part, we must respond to suffering differently.

--

Christ gave them a different perspective on their Bibles. A. It points to be; B. I came to suffer; C. God loves all people and Israel is the vehicle God uses. The metanarrative: The bigger story.

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; ²¹ because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of [\[f\]](#)corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³ Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession [\[g\]](#)for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

God's Everlasting Love

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. ³⁴ Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."
³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Philippians 4:13 – example "I can do all things...". What's the real point? Winning a football game? Context: Suffering. I've learned to be content regardless of external circumstances.

1 Timothy 2:9 – women, modest apparel. When we read that, we project modest apparel from our context—sexual modesty. Not what he's talking about. Talking about economic modesty. People in the church—some in high honor, some in low honor. When the church gathers, be careful that you don't dress in a way that declares your honor.

Romans 8 in context. The bigger picture. We know the end game. People from every tribe, nation, people, tongue worshipping our God. Right framework.

Romans 1:5 – through Him, we have received grace...obedience to the faith among all nations for His name.

Jews, Greeks and Barbarians. Writing to multi-ethnic groups.

Romans 15 – v. 20 – made it my name to preach where not preached. Breaking new ground among other ethnic groups. Inviting them to take part in reaching new people groups.

Crescendo at 8:1 - Knowing all I've just written about, there is no condemnation. 1 -11 – what does it look like to walk in the Spirit.

V 12 – Therefore debtors not to the flesh. Led by Spirit of God, evidence you are a son of God. Spirit of adoption. Abba Father. Doctrine of adoption. We have literally been adopted. Not a biological member, but the head of a family makes a decision to add you to his family. Given same status and name. Viewed by outside world as a member of that family.

By HIM, by Jesus.

v. 16 – Spirit bears witness. If children, then heirs of God.

v. 18 – shift of gears. Sufferings not worthy to be compared...glory...

Becoming an adopted child is not going to alleviate suffering. But he gives us the right lens. We have in mind the end game, where we will be fully his child, with all that means.

Eagerly awaiting for the adoption. Not fully adopted in the sense that we don't have all that means yet. Our adoption leading toward that glorifies body. Something more ahead.

v. 24 – saved in this hope. Hope that is seen is not hope. Eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

A biblical conquerer has clear understanding certain words.

V. 31 – If God is for us, who can be against us. How shall he not freely give us all things.

Jesus is at right hand of God. We are loved. God will give us what we need. What He thinks we need is usually opposite of what we think we need.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? 7 things part of life in a broken world. Every conceivable experience that people living in a broken world have. Not evidence that God doesn't love you. We need to let the Word of God define the word love, not project our understanding of love.

Human inclination: If you love someone, you don't let them suffer.

God, who is love, sometimes permits suffering or sometimes even lets it. Be inflicted. Did the Father love the Son? Did he permit him to suffer? Yes. Sometimes love lets suffering happen.

Psalm 44 – sheep for the slaughter.

v. 37 – more than conquerers in all these forms of suffering. Retune your mind. Rethink the idea that if you have trouble that God doesn't love you. No, we are more than conquerers. Because we have the right perspective, the glory of God and the hope we have for the future.

Paul wrote this. We 2 Corinthians 11 and his experience.

--

John 13

We are loved by Christ regardless of what we experience in this world. Suffering is written in the OT. Psalm 44. All these things—more than conquerers through him who loved us...

For us to be more than conquerers, we need to know certain things.

13:1 – Before Passover...having loved his own, he loved them to the end, to the uttermost... Giving his life for them. Jesus treated as if he lived our lives, so that we can be treated as though we lived his life.

v. 3 – knowing... experientially... that the Father had given all things into his hands, that he had come from God and was going to God...

In honor-shame culture, you don't someone else's feet. Selfless service regardless of how it's perceived by others. 1. Father had given him all things; 2. Came from God; 3. Going to God.

Philosophy tries to find answers to where did I come from, why am I here, where am I going.

How did he use his power? He let Pilate have power over himself.

Things important to know in order to embrace the reality that we're more than conquerors means.

First, know God's essential nature and character. God is love in the essence of his being. God exists in 3 persons. Relational in the essence of his being. A Being in Relationship. He's personal. He's communicational. Let us make man in our image... Able to make decisions that matter. Decisions have consequences. God is graceful in the essence of his being. God is sovereign, in control. Steers evil to control his purposes.

2nd, God's Purpose for Your Life: You exist for the glory of God.

We exist to reflect the glory and splendor of God. Moon has no light of itself...a reflector of the sun. We were created to reflect God's light. "For your names' sake..." Elisabeth Elliott – Satisfaction is never a goal. God has not designed us for that. Always and only a by-product of self-denial and self-sacrifice. Philippians 1 – whether by life or death, I want to magnify Christ in my life.

3rd, Your Personal Relational Connection with Him. Have you been born again, an adopted child of God. Spirit of Adoption. Whole point of Job: Satan believed Job served God because of the gifts, not the Giver. Accepting the suffering and loving God in spite of it. Cerebral palsy guy and atheist care-giver. Why doesn't God heal you? "I need to know more about that kind of God..." Are you an adopted child of God or not?

4th, You Must Understand God's Method of Instruction. Comparison and contrast. To understand the differences, you have to understand the contrast. Conceptual contrast. He wants us to learn by conceptual contrast instead of experiential contrast.

--

John 13. Certain things we need to know to fully embrace that status God has given us.

We learn through experiential contrast.

Definitions of key scriptural truths that you need to hold onto.

Violence used to mean physical harm to someone else. Now we realize there are other ways to harm people, such as with words.... Verbal abuse. We've broadened the meaning of the word. Marriage used to mean something specific. Pro-life used to mean anti-abortion.

Biblical words have been broadened wider than intended by God.

Love.

v. 31 – Son of man glorified... v. 34 – a new commandment, that you love one another. All throughout OT. Encapsulated here: As I have loved you. Look at me—I'm the model for what love looks like... crucifixion.

Core concept in our culture of love is an affectionate feeling. God says you must love one another. Not based on affection.

Sermon on the Mount. Corrected so many things. Matthew 5:43 – love your neighbor, hate your enemy. That's what they were taught. I say to you love your enemies, bless those that curse you... A command.

Defining love as defined in the Scripture. Affection is not the key component of love. It's a choice or decision to do something beneficial to do something for someone else and you don't have to like them.

Romans 5:14 – if when we were enemies. Enemies of God. If God loves based on affection, we're toast.

Biblical love can include warm affection, but it's more than that. A relationship of permanent commitment to the welfare of others.

Biblical definition: Love is first and foremost a choice of the will. Engages the brain. That may or may not include affection. That motivates the lover to consistently act for the benefit or welfare of someone else. And it includes self-denial and self-sacrifice. Not self-seeking. Not self-satisfying. Whether or not that person deserves it or reciprocates. God loves people who don't deserve it and mostly don't reciprocate.

Clearest window of this is mother and father with baby, who cannot give anything back. A life of self-denial.

You don't need to like the people you love. God can command that.

Forgiveness. Misunderstood so much. Don't "apologize," a statement of how you feel. It's not forgiveness. "I recognize I did wrong, but will you treat me as if I didn't?" Forgiveness in OT – lightening a load. When we sin against God, we put ourselves in debt to God and weighed down. Forgiveness is saying "Let me lift the debt that you put on yourself..." Sin is a personal, violent attack on the very nature and character of God. A crime against God and he is the victim and you carry a load of debt to him.

The ultimate sense of forgiveness: it must be sought by the perpetrator, "Would you forgive me?" "Would you lift the debt I owe?" The victim of the crime has to pay the cost to extend forgiveness. "I'm going to die to what I hold you to." True forgiveness is found only when the perpetrator asks the victim to lift the burden. Love and forgiveness do not require emotional engagement. If you extend forgiveness, your emotions will catch up.

Isaiah 43:25 – I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake and I will not remember your sins.

Ezekiel 34:15-16 – if he turns from his sin...he shall surely live. None of his sins will be remembered against him. God chooses not to remember.

Uplifting of the charge of guilt from another. A formal declaration of that fact. A promise to never bring it up in the future. As far as the east is from the west.

Do you have to forgive people who don't ask for forgiveness? Eternity changing forgiveness needs to be asked for. If you bring your gift to the altar...go get right with the person. Unbelievers or even a believer—navigate in the realm of forgiveness.

Hope. The confident expectation, not self-generated wishful thinking. Comes from God. Final phase of adoption will be our redeemed bodies. What God said will be will be. I'm going to act as if it is true even if everything around me says its not. Not mentally acknowledging a fact. Believing something is true and then entrusting yourself to what you have acknowledge to be true.

Grace. Justice, mercy, grace. Mercy is not giving the person what justice demands. Grace is giving you what you don't deserve. *Charis* – comes from patron-client perspective. Charis is an influential man (patron), giving one what he needs. Key. The client or receiver now has debt of gratitude to the patron. Unmerited favor. Responsibility to be loyal to his patron. Paul grabs this word and applies it to God. We have the idea that grace is one day without expectation. That's unbiblical. God expects reciprocity because of what he's bestowed upon them. Loyalty. The grace of God teaches you to deny ungodliness, not to be accepted, but because you are accepted. If there's no change in our lives, you don't understand biblical grace.

--

Communion, John Hessler

Pilgrims and sojourners—that's what we are. How do we live by kingdom principles. Philippians 1:6 – he who has begun...cling to that.

Abraham, a pilgrim, sojourner. Genesis 16 – I’m your shield, protector, provider. Hebrews 11 – Abraham was content as a sojourner in this world. Looking ahead to a building with foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Heaven is a temporary domain. Jesus talks about the Kingdom.

Songs of Ascents. 15 Psalms. 120-134. Psalms sung by pilgrims.

Psalm 121 – where does my help come from... He who keeps Israel... Shade at your right hand. Preserves going out and coming in... forever more.

You either coming in or going out.

1 Kings 3 – ask for anything you want and I’ll grant it. Asks for wisdom. Solomon is a man to look at in terms of your own life. Solomon loved the Lord... We mean it when we say it. Except, he burned incense at the high places. Major downfall of his life. Honored their gods. “Stop burning incense at some of these high places...” Compromises we allow to happen in our hearts. What happens in the heart pays out in where we let our eyes go, where we spend our money, etc.

I don’t worship the god on the mountain. Worship the God that made the mountain.

The helper is the one that comes alongside. In the OT the one who helps is a warrior. Won’t allow you to stumble. How often have we said, “I just fell into that sin...” No, my helper won’t allow my foot to slip. So I chose to go there.

God desires a “mouth-to-mouth” relationship in the Hebrew.

The Lord keeps you. Shield, shade. Don’t blame your sin on God. Will protect and provide. Preserve you from all evil.

Citizenship in heaven. Principles for the pilgrimage.

Don’t conform to this strange land or react against it, but to travel through this land.

Colossians 3:1 – seek the things above. Christ, who is your life. Is He?

When he appears, you will also appear with him in glory.

1 John 3:1-3

Ephesians 2 – his workmanship – *poema* – beautiful work of art.

--

Philippians 1

Repentance. A change of mind that produces a change of direction. Not an apology. There is an element of sorrow. Change of mind that produces a change of course direction/action.

Suffering. Nate Saint – pilot killed. Steve Saint his son. Father speared to death by tribal group. 21 year-old daughter died of brain aneurism after mission trip. Now a paraplegic. Suffering is the difference of expectation and reality. Same definition as blessing. Suffering is the effect of living in a broken world.

Kingdom of God. *Basilea*. Not primarily a geographical boundary. Core concept is rule and reign. Where there is a king and subject. A sovereign and subjects who submit to him. Wherever you are, because you are subjects of the King. Does not need democracy or any form of human government. Does not need the US. Democracy is antithetical to the Kingdom. God is bringing us into a season where we need men who are more than conquerors.

Examples from Scriptures of examples of those who are more than conquerors.

EX: Pastor Dinga. Thankful to be an American after moving from Myanmar. Arrested, tortured, beaten, refugee. Telling him how good God is. Operating from different perspective. God has already people in our midst who have already been an oppressed minority. They can teach us when we as Christians become oppressed here

v. 12 – **Paul.** Things that have happened have turned out for the furtherance of the gospel.

v. 19 – will turn out for my deliverance. Christ will be magnified in my body, either by life or death.

v. 21 – to live is Christ, to die is gain. Hard-pressed. Desire to depart and be with Christ.

v. 24 – to remain is better for you. If given the choice, I'd just go ahead and die. But to remain in the flesh is to produce more fruit here. Not making decision by what I want. What is going to bring glory to you, Lord? Confident his time is not up yet.

Genesis 39:21 – **Joseph.** God is sovereign and defines what is good. You don't tell God what mercy looks like. God lets him be accused of rape. Went to jail. Joseph exposed them to the true God from upper echelons to prison of Egypt. "God showed him mercy." Gave him favor with the guards and stayed in prison 2 more years. Our definition of mercy comes into conflict with God's definition.

Daniel. "Lord, where are you here?" when we read scripture. How does this reveal you? Seeing it through the right grid. Overseas people go into Daniel not to look at prophecy, but because it describes their situation. The Daniel Manual for living in a hostile environment.

Found a way to deal with lower echelon rather than outright rebellion. Offered an alternative because they understood the endgame.

Daniel 3. **Shadrach, Meshech and Abednego.** No need to answer you in this matter. God will deliver us, but if not, we're not going to serve your gods. We're good servants here.

Esther. Esther 4. Esther is a miniature picture of the church. 4:13 – decree made. Don't think you'll escape. Such a time as this. Who knows whether your whole life hasn't been planned for such a moment? You can participate or not, it's going to happen either way. V. 15 – Go and gather

all the Jews and fast for me. Prayer and fasting. 3 days-3 nights. Against the law to go to the king. If I die, I die. That's more than a conquerer.

Acts 16. Paul goes to Philippi. By the river. Jewish women. Gentile woman Lydia. She gets saved. Demonized damsel. Human trafficking. Pimped. Set her free. Pimps didn't like it. Dragged Paul and Silas before magistrates. Beaten. Jail. Earthquake. When it's time to be set free, Paul says "No—you tell them to come here." Roman citizenship card. Government officials got caught up and takes a beating he doesn't have to have. Withheld his rights for a bigger purpose. Power paradigm shifted then. These guys are going to understand grace. They deserved death. They got grace. What kind of God lets his people be beaten? More than a conquerer.

Key: Don't expect ungodly people or institutions to think act or speak in a godly fashion. Confident that nothing experienced separates us from God's love. Anything in life is an opportunity for the glory of God to be displayed.