

THE SAME #12 – VICTORY OVER DARKNESS

10/31/2021

Heb. 13:8; Eph. 6; 2Cor. 10

Sunday a.m.

SLIDE 1 – COVER SLIDE

SLIDE 2 – HEBREWS 13:8 – JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME...

SLIDE 3 – VICTORY OVER DARKNESS (*JESUS GIVES)

SLIDE 4 – VERSUS (?)

- VS – Halloween – cultural focus ('holiday,' costumes, fear, scary, etc.) evil
 - God vs. the devil; Good vs. evil; Light vs. dark;
 - def. of religious dualism (Zoroastrianism, yin/yang, 'balance')
- Hollywood/movie/cultural portrayals of evil & darkness
 - Devil is a liar/father of all lies – bully, intimidate, pressure, influence
- God – Creator w/attributes
 - All-powerful, all knowing, all present, all good, etc...
- The devil – created being (high-angel; Lucifer "light bearer";)
 - Powerful, limited knowledge, 1 place at a time;
 - Rebelled & lost NAME & place w/God; 1/3 of angels with him
 - The devil/satan – "the adversary/the enemy"
 - Striking against God's creation (esp. against humanity – in God's image)
 - Steal, kill, destroy vs. Life abundantly; destroy works of devil

SLIDE 5 – JESUS CAME IN THE FLESH TO...

- Luke 4 – fulfillment of Isaiah 61
- 1John 3:8 – destroy works of the devil
- John 10:10 – bring life abundantly
- John 3:16-18 – bring forgiveness of sins/eternal life → GGN
- Matthew 28:18-20 – make & send disciples
 - All authority on heaven/earth given to Christ; then given to us

SLIDES 6-11 – EPHESIANS 6:10-18

SLIDE 12 – BE STRONG IN THE LORD

- Context: Ephesus, temple/powerful cult of Artemis → Paul points us to Christ
 - Since there's a choice in what we are strong about: *be strong in the Lord*
 - Be strong in His mighty power
 - (vs. our best attempts, strengths, ways/means)
- Requires a different (*spiritual*) approach towards strength – God's way
 - Opposite spirit – Proud vs. humble; harsh vs. gentle; cruel vs. kind, etc...
 - Christ-focused vs. enemy focused

SLIDE 13 – TAKE YOUR STAND

- Be prepared (put on the armor – it's a battleground/not a playground) no fear
- GOLIATH – Saul's armor vs. David's 'armor' – faith, confidence, peace, etc...
- Where/when does God call you to *take your stand*?

- Temptation to stand on politics/personal beliefs/side-issues
- Where will I stand? What does taking my stand look like?
 - Doing what God called me to do, no matter what
 - Not giving in (compromise, neglect, abandonment)
- **Matthew 7:24-27** – *house on the Rock vs. house on the sand* –
 - Where you stand matters – good, solid foundation vs. sandy
 - Rooted & anchored in Christ, His Words, His life, His tools/weapons
 - Temptation to take on the enemy in our own strength

SLIDE 14 – KNOW THE REAL ENEMY

- NOT flesh & blood → it IS Rulers, authorities, powers, dark forces of evil
 - in the heavenly/spiritual realm → ranks/levels/org power structure (?)
 - can't fight this enemy with weapons made by humanity – only Jesus
- Standing in the Lord's mighty power, in His armor – you will be able to stand
 - In the face of the day of evil – after doing everything, to remain standing
- Truth, righteousness, GGN/peace, faith, salvation (mind), Spirit/Word of God
 - PRAY IN THE SPIRIT – Holy Spirit given language; build me up – in ALL

SLIDES 15,16 – 2CORINTHIANS 10:3-5

SLIDE 17 – FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT *SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- **BEST WARFARE** – living obedient, submitted lives to Christ, in community
- 'unconventional weapons of warfare' – God's weapons
- These have power to utterly destroy/DEMOLISH *strongholds, arguments, & pretensions set up against knowing God, His ways/purposes*
 - Thoughts, ideas, mindsets, 'ways' of life → "have you considered...?"
 - Rarely direct/frontal assaults – usually hidden (land mines)
 - What do we do once they're identified as threats?
- *Process – How do we take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ?*
 - Submitted to God, His word, etc...
 - Armor of God (SEE ABOVE) protects you from deception & wrong
 - Word of God (sword) does the offensive work →
- **Matt 4/Luke 4** – Jesus tempted by satan in desert - "It is written"
 - Perseverance; standing on the Rock; community/church/relationships

SLIDE 18 – WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS?