
**Come behold our wounded King, see what mercy cost.
All the wages of our sin, cancelled at the cross.**

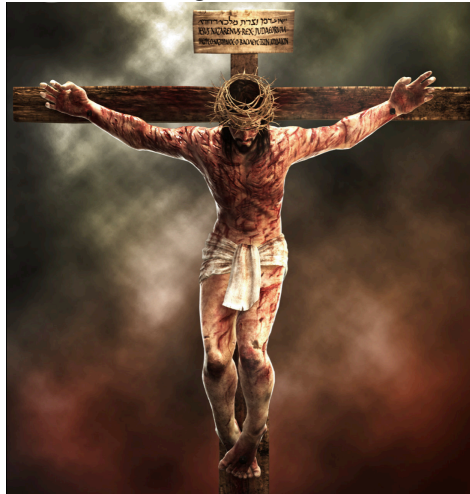
**Come and see where death has died, see the risen Son.
A thousand graves could not contain the measure of His love.**

**All our fear and all our failure, all our sorrow, all our shame;
See the darkness now defeated, overcome in Jesus' Name.**

**When this world's final page is turned, every knee will bow,
Jesus seated on the throne with the Victor's crown!**

**He has overcome, He has overcome and forevermore He reigns.
We will overcome, we will overcome, by the power of Jesus' Name.**

Church, He has overcome and we celebrate that today, because it's Resurrection Day...and every Sunday is a reminder of the fact that Jesus rose from the dead, and as His followers, we will too! Yes, every Sunday we get to celebrate the fact that we worship a risen Savior, One who overcame the grave, BUT for Him to have overcome the grave, we must acknowledge that He had to...



He had to die! He died a gruesome death... A death that caused such excruciating, mind-numbing pain, that it's simply really indescribable. Yet, what Jesus went through physically is almost nothing compared to what He went through in His pure, righteous, sinless soul. He took unto Himself, the darkest, most evil, vile sins you could ever imagine...your sin, my sin...He took it all...and drank the cup of God's wrath against sinners...down to the last drop.

But there's something else we need to understand this Easter Sunday. See it again:



That's what hate looks like. Hate! Yes...the hatred of the Pharisees and Caiaphas the High Priest and all the Sanhedrin, the highest ruling court of Israel. They hated Jesus because they saw the people going to Him and that was costing them money, position and power, prestige. So, they plotted a plan to kill Him and they thought they had gotten what they wanted. And so did Satan, the architect of all their hatred...a hatred that echoed back in time all the way to Satan's rebellion in the halls of heaven.

Yes, they thought it was over on Friday! He's dead! He's gone! He's finished! Yes, that's how it looked until Sunday morning. It was a spring morning. The birds were singing. The sun was breaking over the horizon. The dew...burning off the grass...it was just a normal morning in Jerusalem...until the ground started to heave and quake. Suddenly, the massive stone sealing Jesus' tomb was flung by an angel from the opening like a frisbee tossed in a yard... And the King of the universe walked out ALIVE!!

The Roman guard that had been secured from Pilate by Caiaphas had already scattered when the ground started to move, and you know Satan was watching...watching that tomb in horror as he saw Jesus walk out alive! Can you imagine what went through his evil, demented being. "What! He's alive!! Impossible!" Indeed, He was alive, and that fact changed the course of the history of the world!

But for Satan, the resurrection has only intensified his hatred over the last 2,000 years. His hatred grows by the day and his world system continues to seek to destroy anything and everything that bears His name. Church family, there is no hatred like the hatred Satan has for Jesus, and for us, His followers...and yet, as we were just singing...we will overcome...

If you've been with us over the last several weeks, you know we're on a journey. We've not gotten to the cross yet, but it's coming. For now, in John 15, Jesus is headed to the Garden of Gethsemane, where He will be arrested.

On this walk with His disciples, Jesus is seeking to prepare them for what they're about to experience. They're about to experience pure hatred. They're going to see one of their own, Judas, possessed by Satan, leading a band of soldiers with lit torches and swords coming to take their Master away. And on this walk, Jesus is describing to them the hatred that will come against them from this day forward and the hatred that we must live with today. Follow along with me...

[John 15:18-25](#)

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without a cause.’

Why did they hate Jesus without a cause? I believe the simple answer was given in our text. Jesus is exposed their sin. He told the truth. He is THE TRUTH...and the Pharisees, led by Satan, the Father of Lies couldn't handle the truth. Church, Christianity is hated because it's true.

Christianity tells us the truth about everything: the truth about God, the truth about man, how we were made: male and female, why we're here, the truth about sin, the truth about righteousness, the truth about life and death, the truth about heaven and hell. Christianity tells the truth because the Bible tells the truth and Satan will always be at war with the truth because he's a liar and he hates the truth...and he's running this world...watch...

John 15:18-19

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Now what does the word: “world” mean? We're not talking about the globe...the physical earth, the planet. We're talking about the Greek world: *Kosmos*. It means: “an ordered system.” The opposite of *kosmos* in the Greek is *chaos*. *Chaos* is: “a disordered system.”

You see, the world was meant to be an ordered system. But chaos ensued with Adam's and Eve's disobedience and rebellion in the Garden of Eden. The ordered system fell into chaos. It's called: “The Fall of Man.” This world, that started out perfect, as Paradise, is now a system of unregenerated people controlled by Satan and demons. It's a world dominated by lies, deception and wrong ideas, all raised up against the knowledge of God.

You know for a long time in America, you didn't have to worry about being a Christian. It was acceptable to be a Christian, and by and large, it was okay to believe what the Bible taught, because it was revered as God's Word. But not today. Not any longer. Those who are in charge...the Elites in our education system, politics, entertainment, sports, social media, the mainstream media, corporate America...their almost all led by Satanic thought and Satanic doctrines.

Yes, America was once a place of safety for Christians, but as we continue to see...like what we saw in Nashville, TN at Covenant Presbyterian Church School, a conservative, evangelical Presbyterian church...the senseless murdering of three innocent 9-year-olds and three innocent adult teacher/workers...all because of hatred and animus toward Christians. Here are the six who were killed. You've seen their faces...



And the little girl in the middle...to use just one example...is Hallie Scruggs...



Here's her family. She was the daughter of the Pastor of the church, Chad Scruggs. She leaves behind: her dad, her mom and three brothers. But, the police, still at this moment, at the bequest of the DOJ and FBI, have yet to release the manifesto describing the brutal murders, why? Because it would go against the narrative the Elites want to push in our country. The truth is a demented young lady wanted to kill Christians because she believed Christians were the source of all of her problems.

No, the narrative being pushed by the mainstream media, politicians, Madonna... is this: Christians caused this. Christians and our beliefs regarding what Scripture teaches about sexuality and marriage made a 28-year-old woman, pretending to be a man, believe it was okay to kill Christians. The mantra is: "Hate has consequences." It's mind-numbing, Christians being accused of hate because we simply espouse what God's Word teaches and has taught for 2,000+ years about sexuality and marriage. We're the haters!? No...we're truth the tellers!

We're a big problem for the world. Christians are a conscience to the world. If you say homosexuality is a sin or transgenderism is disorder, which BTW it was once called "gender dysphoria," or a "disorder of the mind"...by the American Medical Association up until about 10 years ago. Well, if you say these things now, you're unloving and a bigot and you deserve to be hurt...and if that

happens or you die...you had it coming. And the Elites of our world, including our White House pushes this garbage!

Listen, the Bible is clear: sexual sin is wrong...whether it be homosexuality, heterosexual fornication...(that's sex outside of marriage), living together while not being married...it's all sin. So is lying, so is stealing, coveting, murder...what the Bible calls sin is sin...and that's because God said it, and He is our authority.

You see, you and I were fine in the world's eyes before we became Christians. Pretty much everybody accepted us then...and that's because, before we came to Christ, we didn't confront the world or expose the world with the truth of God's Word. But once you came to Christ...you understood that the Bible is your authority, not man, and you have to speak the truth of God's Word, even when it might offend someone who's lost. We do it in love and with kindness...just like a doctor does when describing to a patient that they have cancer. The patient has to know the truth so they can deal with it.

It's unfortunate, but it's becoming more and more of a reality, that our sense of freedom and safety in America, as followers of Jesus, is in peril. And I'm telling you, it's because the powerful force of the progressive liberal Elites calling the shots are being fueled and led by Satan himself. So, the persecution will come. That's what Jesus told us would happen! We just read it.

Church family, in the case of the LGBTQ community...the vast majority of those people identifying as such would never kill someone. But that community, is a community of people who are confused and hurting. The Elites say they need Gender-Affirming Care...you know what that means...hospitals get to make money off of mutilating our children. No, what they need is Jesus-Affirming Care! They need Jesus!

We need to help the LGBTQ community reconcile in their minds how God made them biologically. Jesus said, "God made them male and female," Matthew 19:4. That hurting and confused community needs the love of Jesus and to seek their identity in Him, not an abhorrent lifestyle. And here's the cold-hard truth...they're being used by the liberal Elites who don't care two cents about them...but, only use them as a political-pawns and as cash cows, sourcing their funding for their evil and despicable schemes. It is all about power for the Elites who are running this country!

Listen, we all know Satan is the god of this world and he manipulates his demonic forces to work through human beings who are sinful; who have yet to come to faith in Jesus; thus, they remain trapped in the kingdom of darkness, and they carry out Satan's agenda; sometimes even unbeknown to them...because they actually think they are doing good...just like the Pharisees who thought they were doing right by killing Jesus.

You could sum it up this way: Christians are the most loved of all people by God, and they are the most hated of all people by Satan. And we have to live with that. So, do we live in fear and dread? No. We live with our eyes wide open. We're as wise as serpents, and as innocent as doves. We're in the world, but not of it.

But I get it. Some will say, "You have a victim complex." No, we don't...it's the Left that has a victim-complex. The Left is always pushing the victim-card. You see, in our history as Christians, we've always been pushed out the public marketplace...ever since we were fed to lions in the Roman Coliseum. Yet, this persecution separates the wheat from the chaff...the cultural Christian from the

true Christian and when it's the darkest...that's when we shine the brightest as a city on a hill...a light to the world. But the light exposes the darkness and the world hates that!

Watch now as Jesus explains the darkness that is coming:

John 15:20

20 Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

When I read this verse do you know what I thought? Why in the world do we think we're going to have it any better than Jesus did when He was here? "Is a servant above his master?" Meaning: "Don't you dare think you're going to have it better than Jesus." What happened to Jesus? He was betrayed by His own...



Judas came and betrayed Him. He was then arrested, beaten and crucified.

Church family, I want to tell you something, if you live for Jesus and you kindly and lovingly stand on the truth of His Word...*hoping and yearning for everyone to like you*...you're going to be sadly disappointed...because they won't and they can't...because you will stand against sin and evil and that will extremely frustrate those who are living in sin, because your light will expose their darkness.

Listen, whatever is against God, whatever is against Scripture is part of Satan's system, and his world system hates God, Jesus, and the truths of Scripture because it flies in the face of how the world lives. Therefore, they offend you don't jump on their bandwagon...so, they start calling you names to intimidate and if that doesn't work, they'll try to get you fired, and if that doesn't work...it can quickly turn physical, or worse. And Jesus said this would happen...all on account of His name:

John 15:21

21 But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

If you had asked the Pharisees and the Sanhedrin and Caiaphas, the High Priest, if they knew God, they would have all said: "Absolutely." They all thought they were doing the will of God. Jesus said, "They don't know God, because they don't acknowledge Him as God." In other words, they knew about God, but they did not personally know God. Amazing! Even after all the miracles Jesus

performed in their presence...it still wasn't enough to convince them, and so they hated the name of Jesus. Jesus continues, verse 22:

John 15:22

22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.

What does this mean? It means: when Jesus came to this earth, He shared the truth of about their sin. He said: "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." In other words, repent of your sins, turn from yourself, turn from the world and come to me and you will have life. And for those who refuse...they will be guilty of rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ and it's that sin that is unpardonable and will send a person to Hell! Therefore, Jesus said:

John 15:23-24

23 Whoever hates me hates my Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father.

Church, I ask it all the time: What more could Jesus have done to prove He was from God, that He was from heaven, than all the miracles He performed; and then, the ultimate miracle of rising from the dead? Church, He couldn't have done any more than that. But, the Elites of His day wouldn't believe because they were evil...blinded by Satan with greed, with love of self, with the desire to be in control...thirsty for prestige, position, power and filled with hate. They hated Jesus and in concert with that hatred...Jesus said, "They hated both me and my Father." Jesus said that they actually hated the God they said they served. But this was prophesied to happen. Verse 25.

John 15:25

25 But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

Jesus cited Psalm 35:19 and Psalm 69:4. Those are Messianic Psalms...psalms that look forward to the coming of the Messiah...Jesus Himself. Church, you do understand, Jesus knew all along this was going to happen to Him and He came anyway! He came to give us life so that we could overcome!

Did He overcome? Yes! But, on Friday. It looked bad!



Maybe it looks that way in your life... Maybe it looks really bad. Think about your life. Think about what you're going through. Is there fear? Failure? Sorrow? Shame? See the words...

**Come behold our wounded King, see what mercy cost.
All the wages of our sin cancelled at the cross.**

**Come and see where death has died, see the risen Son.
A thousand graves could not contain the measure of His love.**

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**He has overcome, He has overcome and forevermore He reigns.
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Jesus has overcome and you can overcome...but, only through Him. There is no other way to experience, true joy and true peace apart from Jesus. Jesus came and won the victory over death, hell and the grave. That's why we celebrate today. He is your deliverance from pain, from sin, from lies, from confusion... It's time you trust Him and start living for Him and not yourself.
