



“Dear Children, ‘Something Has Happened To Us!’”

1 John 5:1-5, Mark 6:45-52, John 1:1-13, 3:1-17

Sunday | May 20th, 2018 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

Mark 6:45-52
1 John 5:1-5
John 1:1-13
John 3:1-17

DISCUSS

1. Read Mark 6:45-51. Pastor Patrick emphasized the phrase, “Making headway painfully.” What do you feel when you read that? Can you relate?

2. Read 1 John 5:1-5. As a group, identify the repetition. What has John already mentioned and where in the letter does he mention it? (*Note: This exercise will help you become more familiar with the letter as a whole*)

3. Pastor Patrick focused in on 1 John 5:3-4. Read and discuss. Is it easy or difficult for you to read “his commandments are not burdensome”? Do they ever feel “burdensome”?

4. Pastor Patrick mentioned that when God’s commandments feel “burdensome” it is likely a faith problem. What did he mean (explain for the text)?

5. Historically, the church has offered us two different answers to the question of how to overcome the world. **(1) The monastic view.** The idea here is that in order to overcome the world we must remove ourselves from it. Can you think of some examples (either in observance or from your own life)? **(2) The evangelical view** (or biblical view). Here we overcome by faith in what Christ has done rather than on what we do (or don’t do).

6. Martyn Lloyd-Jones once wrote, “Christians, we have seen, are those who overcome; there is a sense in which they have already overcome, and they are still overcoming. But how do they do it? Well, there is nothing here [referring to 1 John] that tells them they have taken up the religious life, so-called, as a vocation; there is nothing about going behind a wall and then putting regulations and rules on the wall and keeping them day by day. Nothing of the kind! First and foremost we are told of certain things that are true of us as Christians; something has happened to us, and it is because of this that we can thus overcome.”¹ “Something has happened to us.” What does Lloyd-Jones mean by that? Discuss.

7. Read John 1:1-13 and 3:1-17 and discuss. What does it mean to be “born of God” (c.f. 1 John 5:1)? Rehearse the gospel together. How is it that the “victory that has overcome the world” (1 Jn. 5:4) is our faith?

8. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?

¹Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Life In Christ: Studies in 1 John* [Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2002], p. 599