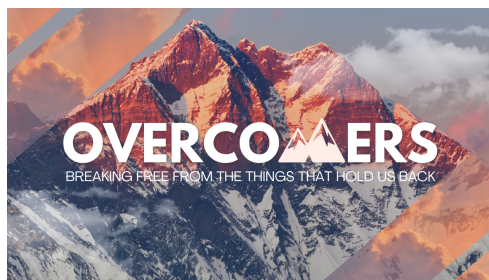


SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Overcoming Addiction

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
& Kevin Williams - Jericho Road
November 12, 2023



Proverbs 14:12 (NLT) "There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death."

- **We are all addicts in one way or another.**

Romans 6:4-23 (NLT) For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. ⁵ Since we have been united with him [Christ] in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. ⁶ We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷ For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. ⁸ And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. ⁹ We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. ¹⁰ When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. ¹¹ So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. ¹² Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. ¹³ Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. ¹⁴ Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace. ¹⁵ Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! ¹⁶ Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. ¹⁷ Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. ¹⁸ Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living. ¹⁹ Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy. ²⁰ When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. ²¹ And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. ²² But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

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- **Addiction begins with hurt, which leads to escape, which leads to deception, which leads to slavery.**

James 1:14-15 (NLT) "Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵ These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death."

"Physical addiction occurs when you repeatedly satisfy a natural appetite and desire with a temporary pleasure until you become the slave of the temporary object of pleasure rather than its master." (Mark Shaw, The Heart of Addiction)

Why do we chase life in these places? We are all looking for Jesus Christ.

Choosing to obey Jesus Christ as Master leads to...

- **A New Life.** v. 4 & v. 13
- **A New Nature.** v. 5 & v. 11
- **A New Freedom.** v. 14, v. 18, & v. 22
- **It's the presence of Jesus that gives us power over our addictions.**

Big Idea: Give yourself completely to God as your Master to find true freedom.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Overcoming Addiction

#5 of 10 - November 12, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at Overcoming Deception from 2 Corinthians 4:1-6 . How has God been speaking to you this week in this regard? What did you learn and apply this week?
- 2) In what areas do you struggle with compulsive and addictive behaviour? What do you think is the underlying cause for this?
- 3) Read Romans 6:4-23. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole? What are the circumstances?
- 4) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us?
- 6) What do we learn about “slavery and freedom” in this passage? Describe the results of both ways of living? How does this relate to the addictions we struggle to overcome?
- 7) What do we learn about the New Life, New Nature, and New Freedom we have in Christ? Which aspect is most significant to you today and why?
- 8) What does it mean to you that “it’s the presence of Jesus that gives us power over our addictions.”
- 9) **Application:** What steps do you need to take to “give yourself completely to God as your Master to find freedom”?
- 10) What is your next step towards experiencing freedom from addictions?



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