

Introduction

1. Welcome Ephesians 6:18

(1) Perseverance =
pros - kar - tare - ee - sis

- 1. Waiting; no lapse,
stubbornness; persist

2. Dominion

It is my sincere recommendation that everyone begin praying now. When we began a series on marriage, marriages began to fall apart. When we began a series on pain, people began to hurt. When we started Ecclesiastes, injustices under the sun occurred. There is no telling what a series like this will bring to Anthem Church.

I've asked all GC's to prepare a common study to make us more aware of the warfare around us so we can take our stand together during the season of Lent, leading into Easter.

- Migraine for a month
- During the introduction to this series, one of our member's, went into convulsions w/ no history of seizures, no medical explanation for the cause, & none since
- Higher reportings of sleep disturbances & night terrors
- But never could we have imagined a global pandemic, an economic crisis, & prolonged confinement
- Top it off: Easter

2. Response

(1) After last week

(2) I'm picking the fight

3. Changes

(1) Instead of driving my hybrid
I rode my Harley

(2) Instead of slacks, I wore
jeans

(3) Instead of a tie, I put on
cholo flannel

(4) Instead of a pocket watch
chain, biker chain

(5) Instead of glasses, contacts
Boots for wingtips

(6) I groomed my beard,
spiked my hair

(7) The only thing left to do

1. Preach this sermon

2. Smoke a cigar

3. Pour some bourbon

4. Spit in Satan's face

5. Start new series

Not
Today
Satan

4. We're stubborn, because Jesus wins

(1) How? Because there is a cross inside the Colosseum

(Cross Pic)

(2) 2000 years ago, Christians were tortured and killed in the Colosseum for refusing to renounce their faith. In many countries around the world, that practice continues today, with over 3,000 Christian martyrs killed in 2017 alone.

4. Christus Victor

(1) Christ the Victorious

(2) Christ the Conqueror

(3) Gustaf Aulén 1931 Book

(4) As a theology

1. Ransom to Devil

2. Victims

(5) Penal Substitutionary Atonement

(6) Gustaf Aulén 1931

(7) THREE STORIES

1. w/ Jesus nothing that seems defeated is ever really defeated
2. Satan's job: Believe it's defeated

I. Victor Over Death

1. Lazarus Defeated By Death

John 11:17-21 - Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

(1) Where was Jesus?

1. "Dead 4 days"
God too long

2. "Miles off" "Been here"
God too far

(2) Truth :

1. God is always on time

2. God is always nearby

"Where was I?"

"Where were you!"

2. Jesus Defeats Death

John 11:23-27 - Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

(1) In other words, stop looking around at what I'm not doing... look at what I am

(2) Better yet, look at me!

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it... When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out...

(3) Satan wants to ensure we stay spiritually dead

Ephesians 2:1-3 - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

1. Christians, you are not exempt

(4) Remember: you & I were under death's dominion

1. Gen 2:17 - "You will surely die"

2. Rom. 6:23 - "Wage sin = death"

(3) But Jesus knew no sin
(1 Pet 2:22)

(4) So death could not
hold him (Acts 2:24)

(5) Jesus = 1st in history
to resurrect & never die
again i.e. Lazarus

Revelation 1:18-19 - ...I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

1 Corinthians 15:17 - And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

(6) Nothing that seems defeated
w/ Jesus is ever really
defeated.

(7) In fact, Jesus came
to pick a fight w/ things
that seem dead.

1 Corinthians 15:26 - The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

(8) Not Prosperity Gospel!

(9) Resurrect Martha's faith
before her desires.

Not Today Satan!

II. Victor Over Disobedience

1. The woman defeated by sin

Luke 7:36–39 - One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner."

(1) If you don't think you need Jesus, like Simon, Satan has defeated you.

1. What do you think you need right now?

(2) If you don't think you deserve Jesus, like the woman, Satan has defeated you.

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free . . . Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" - Emma Lazarus

2. Jesus Defeats Sin

Luke 7:41–48 - "...turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

(1) Gustaf Aulén was wrong.
We are not victims of
Satan's schemes.

(2) We were sinners in
willing rebellion

Ephesians 2:1-3 - ...following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind...

(3) Jesus did not pay a
ransom to Satan, but
absorbed a debt for God

Romans 5:12 - ...just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned...

(4) That sin made us objects
of God's wrath

Romans 2:5 - But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

(5) But Jesus took our
place

1 John 2:2 - He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

(6) A "penalty substitution"

(8) Don't let Satan accuse you!

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Not Today Satan

III. Victor Over Devil

1. The Gadarene Defeated by Satan

Mark 5:1-5 - They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.

- (1) Satan thinks he owns the place
- (2) But he's just a squatter
- (3) The eviction notice has been given, and like all squatters who won't leave, eventually his time will come once & for all

2. Jesus Defeated Satan

Mark 5:6-13, 5:15-20 - And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"...And the unclean spirits came out...

And the people came to see what happened...they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man...in his right mind...[Jesus] said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

- (1) The decisive blow has been dealt
- (2) Satan's time is short (Rev. 12:12)

(3) His power is limited (Jam. 4:7)

(4) Shortly he will be bound, ultimately imprisoned. (Rev 20)

3. Result

(1) While you may not be totally free from his presence, you are free from his power.

Romans 16:20 - The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

(2) Don't let Satan tempt you or lie to you

(3) Nothing that seems defeated is...

Romans 8:37 - No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

(3) Christus Victor = Christ the Conqueror means "Allen the conqueror"

1. Not in perverted Game of Thrones way

(4) Satan does not get a Kingdom, he does not sit on a throne.

1 John 2:13 - I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

Conclusion

1. Allen: How do we know?

John 20:19 - On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews....

- (1) In some ways, we relate.
- (2) Huddled up in fear of what's outside that might kill them

2. Jesus' Victorious Over What's To Come

John 20:19-20 - ...Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

(1) How do we know?

Hebrews 2:14 - Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil...

- ↖ (2) Death can't defeat us, because Jesus defeated death

1 Peter 3:18-19 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison...

- ↖ (3) Sin can't defeat us, because Jesus defeated sin

2 Thessalonians 3:3-5 - But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

- √ (4) Satan can't defeat us, because Jesus defeated Satan

Revelation 12:10 - And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

3. Colosseum Cross

- (1) Yeah ... Allen ... but you didn't answer our question.
- (2) How do we know everything will be OK on the other side of the door ... out there ...
- (3) 2000 years later, a cross now stands in the Colosseum

(Pic of Cross)

- (4) Because when things got hard, Christians persevered, they were stubborn.
- (5) Always believing that not everything that looks defeated, really is.

which gave them the confidence to say:

Not Today Satan