

OVERCOMERS

1 Jn 5.1-5

In 1 John 5, same repeated message:

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, (5x)

and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. (19x)

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. (9x)

BUT now he adds a twist: And His commandments are not burdensome. Seriously? Not burdensome? Let's recap!

Under the Old Covenant, I could act properly, but have an improper heart.

I could abide by the letter of the law, but disobey it in my heart.

The Law was written on tablets of stone, they were over there in the Holy of Holies.

But then came Jesus! I will write my law NOT on tablets of stone, but on the heart.!

So the law that used to be over there, behind the veil, only seen by High Priest...in me

NOW in me... ...I feel it every day ...feel the weight of its perfection

 ...I sense its power ...it exaggerates my flaws

But here's why they are not burdensome...

BECAUSE OF THE NEW BIRTH

I have been born again! Last week mentioned 1 Pet:

We have an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away,

It is reserved in heaven...and we are being kept by the power of God through faith

Consider the call of Abraham:

Your father in the faith; you are his seed; you are children of Abraham.

The father of Abraham was not a Jew, Chaldean. Abraham was a Chaldean (ur)

So when God said to Abraham, "Leave...your country; family; Father's house..."

God was saying..."I will strip you of all that you are and create something brand new...a Jew."

You are going to be the first person of a new nation that does not exist.

God said: I am going to take away your ethnicity Take away your nationality

This is not a location change, this is a personhood change.

I am going to TEAR you asunder and put you back together.

When you were born again, you left your country; family; and your Father's House.

Your name was changed Heritage was changed Past was erased Old creation became new

You became a new creation, part of an on-going new creation process.

All that you were has changed. All that you are is now becoming

You are no longer a white person; black person; woman; man; Italian; French; Latino...

Gal 3

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Col 3 (If you are raised with X, seek those things which are above, X is...seated at...)

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice...

Put on the NEW MAN who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised,

barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

I do not have to think the way I used to think.

I do not have to be what my DNA says I am

I do not have to act like a carnal man, live my life through bestial appetites

I do not have to act like a carnal woman, live like Jezebel to get power

I have been born again, OLD has been made NEW...a child of ABRAHAM.

Thank You, Jesus For the blood applied

Thank You, Jesus It has washed me white

Thank You, Jesus You have saved my life

Brought me from the darkness Into glorious light

This new birth gives me a new FAITH!

BECAUSE OF THE NEW FAITH

For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;

and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Gal 2)

BECAUSE OF A NEW ADVOCATE

Thank you Father that I have an ADVOCATE even Jesus Christ, who is the propitiation...

Because of Jesus I have gained the favor and goodwill of God

Because of Jesus His commandments are not burdensome.

GOOD NEWS...When I slip back into an old white guy mindset, I have an advocate.