

## **MORE THAN CONQUERORS**

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### *Lesson 2 – Houston, We Have a Problem!*

Last week we began a study in Romans that will take us across the next few weeks. This study is entitled “More Than Conquerors” because that’s the calling on our lives as people of faith. We’ll end there in chapter 8, but first we’ve got to lay the groundwork and establish the context so we can all grasp the content.

In Week 1, we focused on how to develop a conquering attitude. We pointed out that people of great achievement are usually people of special attitudes. We saw where Paul the Apostle, the former Saul of Tarsus, was such a man.

Without him the message of the risen Christ could conceivably have found its place among the little-known legends of the Middle East and been relegated to the position reserved for stories of fancy loved by poets and romantics, but largely ignored by men of action and purpose. But to a great extent because of Paul's life, this was not to be.

From one end of the Roman Empire to the other he traveled—preaching, teaching, founding churches, instructing leaders, nurturing the faltering, rebuking the disorderly, organizing, sustaining, challenging, and comforting those who believed.

Wherever he went, people believed, groups of remarkably dedicated disciples were formed, and with unbelievable speed and effectiveness the church of Christ was taken from the position of a troublesome sect of Judaism to a lively force of committed people throughout the known world. What attitude drove him?

Three things: 1) he had a realistic appraisal of himself, 2) he had a warm-hearted interest in people, 3) he had an enthusiastic commitment to his work. With chapter 2 and 3, he turns his attention to the righteousness of God, and whenever we discuss the righteousness of God: Houston, we have a problem! *What problem do we face?*

#### 1. The **WORLD** Is Guilty! (1:18–32)

- a. (Stage 1) Intelligence (vv. 18–20).
- b. (Stage 2) Ignorance (vv. 21–23).
- c. (Stage 3) Indulgence (vv. 24–27).
- d. (Stage 4) Impenitence (vv. 28–32).

#### 2. The **CHOSEN** Are Guilty! (2:1—3:8)

- a. The Non-Hebrews (2:1–3).
- b. God’s blessing (2:4–11).
- c. God’s law (1:12–24).
- d. Circumcision (2:25–29).

#### 3. **ALL OF HUMANITY** Is Guilty! (3:9–20)