

KEYS TO OVERCOMING... Attitude 1 30/11/03

*This is part five of the theme to overcoming as described in Revelation 12... **REV 12:11** And they overcame him by the **blood of the Lamb**, and by the **word of their testimony**; and they **loved not their lives unto the death**. This last theme of putting God first, is an overriding attitude which makes all the difference between success and failure. Putting God first is an attitude which gets well rewarded... the forgiveness of sin and a bold testimony are not much good if they are not exercised. If our lives are committed to the wrong priorities then we won't have time to exercise the 'overcoming' principles, nor enjoy their benefits. God will give us more happiness, greater satisfaction and a much more fulfilling life than anything which we are capable of achieving without him. God Knows what we don't.*

We have a very great advantage as Christians... in the bible, we are told of numerous major events before they happen. On that basis we are able to shape our lives to fit into coming events, while at the same time maintaining the quality of life that we want. It is not too hard to imagine the benefits of knowing the future military, political and physical disasters that are just around the corner. God has also given us certain gifts of a miraculous nature which also deal with future events. All future hurts, emotions, sicknesses, upsets, family disasters, etc., are able to be addressed by the supernatural powers of the Holy Spirit.

The bible reveals that we are moving into the final phase of human governments on the earth. On this basis we need to live our lives according to our times.

ISA 13:9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. *Mankind is getting to the stage where they have rejected God in almost every aspect of life. The end results are accumulative... wars, family breakdown, social breakdown, fear, hunger, etc.*

10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. *These are huge natural changes... the type that are not survivable by human standards... God is removing the problems... the spiritual rebels. Those who have polluted his ways and those who follow the same negative lifestyles.*

11 And I will punish the world for *their* evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. *If the people's of the world won't accept God's testimony, then he is going to remove them... permanently.*

12 I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger. *This destruction is foretold... we see it, we hear it, but do we live to avoid it? Are we living a life that fits in with what's coming... do we put God first?*

This brings us back to priorities... those who overcome had one thing in common... 'they loved not their lives to the death'. This theme is repeated in every gospel... they all maintained a particular attitude.

MAT 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

MAT 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

MAR 8:35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

LUK 9:24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

LUK 17:33 Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

JOH 12:25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

Jesus anticipated that these above truths would be met with negative responses... after all, it was common for people to reject anything that God revealed... however, he addresses genuine fears.

MAR 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

30 But he shall receive an hundredfold **now in this time** (*the promises of God are equally for the present as they are for the future*), houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

God offers much more than we can imagine... put him first and get everything... ignore him and lose everything... the choice is always ours to make.