

Introduction:

1. The title of our lesson is bold and provocative. It might even *seem* arrogant, though it is not.
  - a. There are people who are going to come out of this world as winners, achieving victory.
  - b. We are that people. We can say that, not that we are anything special of ourselves. But that our Lord has made us champions, overcomers and victors!
2. Our text is 1 John 5:4-5. The “world” in this text is not the planet; it is the system opposed to God. It is also opposed to us in every sense. It is the realm of Satan; it is that which would destroy us!
  - a. There is a fundamental conflict between Christ and culture; there is an antagonism between the power that proceeds from God and the popular philosophies that proceed from men.
  - b. In that conflict, the Scripture—even the Lord Jesus Himself—assures of victory, John 16:33.

The Lesson:**I. Victory over the world.**

- A. Because we are born of God, victory belongs to us, 1 John 5:4.
  1. Our faith in Christ is the source of our victory. Through Him, we have the power to resist the world of wickedness, 1 John 2:15-17.
  2. Will the devil pursue us? Of course he will. But we overcome, 1 John 5:5. Christ teaches us how to think differently, live differently, and achieve what we would not without Him.
  3. John’s writing is supremely confident and is so different than the spirit of our age. It is also different from the way many of us think. Do we think, “I will always lose.” “I can’t resist evil.” “I know I won’t make it to heaven.” “I can never overcome my fears.” “I just can’t change my life.”? John does not write in that manner. He speaks of victory, not defeat.
  4. Christ is at work in our hearts and can bring about change that produces eternal triumph. But to achieve the victory, there has to be a letting go. Though I am in the world, pleasing and enjoying this world as my goal in life cannot be! My goal must be Christ. He is my all.
- B. We indeed are the champions, overcoming the world! Overcoming the world means...

**II. Victory over immorality.**

- A. We have every reason to reject the love of this world and its lust, 1 John 2:15-17.
  1. Our mission is to love God, not the world, 1 John 5:3. Loving God is not burdensome!
  2. Love of the world is often expressed in sexual immorality—lust of the flesh and the eyes. All acts of immorality are temporary; pleasure gained from it is temporary, passing away. It is essential to victory that we make a clear choice between the temporary and the eternal. We are made for something better than immorality; thus, we flee, 1 Corinthians 6:18.
  3. Pride of life causes men to exalt themselves—not just over other men, but over God. The “right to do as I want” causes men to commit evil deeds against God. We reject that!
- B. We are indeed the champions, overcoming the world!

### **III. Victory over materialism.**

- A. Madonna may be the “Material Girl,” but we are more than material creatures. We possess a spirit that lives on beyond this world, 2 Corinthians 4:18-5:1.
  - 1. Thus, we must not be consumed with material things. We have balance in our lives as we live by the words of Jesus, Matthew 16:26; Luke 12:15.
  - 2. This is a conscious choice we must make. Are we driven by the ads of Madison Avenue, or by the message of our Master? We can have victory.
- B. We are the champions, overcoming the world!

### **IV. Victory over doubt.**

- A. This world wants us to doubt our faith in Christ.
  - 1. What are TV specials like “The Real Jesus” about? They are designed to create doubt.
  - 2. What are New Testament writings about? They are designed to create certainty and eliminate doubt, Romans 10:17; Luke 1:4; Acts 1:1-3; 1 John 2:3; 5:19-20.
- B. We are the champions, overcoming the world!

### **V. Victory over fear.**

- A. From almost the earliest time man has been ruled by fear, Genesis 3:10.
  - 1. Our fears range from “things that go bump in the night” to fear of meeting God!
  - 2. If there is one message in the New Testament that we should cling to it is this: Because of our faith in God, we do not have to be afraid, 1 John 4:17-18. We don’t have to be afraid of life, and we don’t have to be afraid of death, Luke 12:4-7; Hebrews 2:14-15. What the whole world is afraid of...we don’t have to be afraid at all.
- B. We are the champions, overcoming the world!

### **VI. Victory over the grave.**

- A. The only thing certain in a man’s life is that he must lose his life. Plato taught his students that “men fear death as the greatest curse.” Death is often portrayed as “The Grim Reaper.”
  - 1. While we all go to the grave, in Jesus we have victory over the grave, John 5:28-29.
  - 2. No promise in the New Testament is clearer than the truth that we will be raised from the dead, 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:22; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. The great day of resurrection that is coming dispels the common myth that the saved go directly to heaven at death.
  - 3. Through Christ, your body will go to the grave, your soul to rest—awaiting resurrection!
- B. We are the champions, overcoming the world!

### Conclusion:

- 1. Indeed, we come out of this world as winners. In that respect, I appreciate Romans 8:37.
- 2. Use whatever word you want—champions, victors, conquerors—through Jesus we overcome!