



#IMMORETHANCONQUERORS



Alfred
Street
BAPTIST CHURCH

I'M MORE THAN A CONQUEROR

NOVEMBER 14 - 15, 2020
ROMANS 8: 35-39 (NIV)

AN EPILOGUE OF THE MORE THAN CONQUERORS SERMON SERIES

A SERMON BY

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Sunday, November 15, 2020

Preacher: Pastor Howard-John Wesley

Sermon: I'm More Than a Conqueror

Scripture: Romans 8:35-39 (NIV)



CURRICULUM GUIDE



Sermon Summary

In the final installment of the sermon series focused on Romans 8, Pastor Wesley explores Paul's closing argument and declares "I'm More Than A Conqueror". Paul closes out the chapter by posing more rhetorical questions that can be answered in the same way as the other rhetorical questions that start in Romans 8:31. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?" The answer is always no, nothing, or nobody.

Pastor Wesley then explores the issue of theodicy, which explores the concept of why God allows evil to happen to good people. If God is loving and omnipotent, why do we have Romans 8:35 experiences? Pastor highlight's Paul's argument that because of Christ's resurrection, our confidence is not in what God keeps us from, but rather what God brings us through. Because Christ has not only conquered the experiences that we go through, but also the powers behind them, we can be confident in God's love and omniscient power in our lives. We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us!

Key Points:

1. God will allow all the redeemed to get in "these things".
2. We identify God by God's properties of love and omniscience.
3. God's love for us is unmatched.
4. *BUT* in these things, we are more than conquerors through the power of Christ Jesus!

Notes for Facilitators:

Thank you for your time and leadership in this Fall season of Village! Please encourage your Village members to complete the close out survey. This helps us in planning for the next season of Village.

Getting To Know You Questions:

1. What has been your biggest takeaway from this sermon series?
2. Pastor Wesley mentioned that in Greek there are various words for love that can refer to specific types of love. What is your love language? Is it words of affirmation, physical touch, acts of service, quality time, or gifts?



Into The Bible Questions:

1. Read through each of the 7 questions in Romans 8:35-39 again. Which one of the questions resonates with you the most and what makes it stand out to you? Which question is the most challenging for you to believe?
2. Psalm 44:22 is referenced in Romans 8:36. How does your reading and study of Romans 8 inform how you approach the questions posed in Psalm 44:22-24?
3. As this sermon explored the question of theodicy and why bad things happen to good people, we likewise can wonder why good things happen to "bad" people? In Jeremiah 12:1, Jeremiah complains, "Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all the faithless live at ease?" Like Jeremiah, what questions have you asked God this year?

Life Application Questions:

1. Pastor Wesley highlighted Paul's argument that Christ is not only over the various adversities that we experience, but Christ is also over the powers behind those adversities. What is the distinction between the two? How does that inform your approach to dealing with adversity?
2. Pastor Wesley reminded us of a short but powerful question, "how do I know God loves me?" How do you know this and has there ever been a time when others have made you feel differently?
3. Like the IRS in Pastor Wesley's story, 2020 has taken many things that have resulted in many great losses from major event cancelations to mass unemployment. While we have lost a lot, what have you been able to salvage or even gain this year?
4. To help us understand the extent of agape love, Pastor Wesley teaches us that "God's love cannot be matched by any love you know." Describe great love you've received and how you've seen God's love even exceed that. What about God's love are you still seeking to understand better?




"Can I Push It?"

1. Look up the definition of theodicy. Have you ever been disappointed in or angry with God? What did you do to come around, or if you have not yet, what are you seeking to do? What do you wish fellow Christians would start, or stop, doing when we see one another in seasons of disappointment or anger?

Activity:

1. This sermon highlights how we might find ourselves questioning God's love or omnipotence. In pairs, spend 5 minutes in breakout rooms talking about ways you encourage yourself in God when experiencing challenging circumstances. Come back to the group and share what you all came up with.



Spirit Work:

1. Morning Affirmation: Each day this week, affirm yourself by reading Romans 8:38-39 out loud to yourself. Feel free to make this a household affirmation if there are others in your house!
2. Pastor Wesley spoke of various kinds of loves, whether that is brotherly love, romantic love, or God's love. Think of one way you can extend love to someone this week who may or may not have felt your love lately. Use this as a moment to model the kind of love God has shown you.
3. View Pastor Wesley's Can I Push It sessions on theodicy:
Theodicy part 1: <https://youtu.be/SUSyJErW-™>
Theodicy part 2: <https://youtu.be/JPENWshsW4s>

Readings for This Week:

Monday, November 16 th	Psalms 44
Tuesday, November 17 th	Ephesians 3:17-19
Wednesday, November 18 th	Galatians 2:17-21
Thursday, November 19 th	Genesis 22:12-19
Friday, November 20 th	Romans 8:1-39 (read aloud)