

FBC POWELL, 6-30-19 AM NOTES

“The Conquering Christian”

1 Peter 4:1-6

# 15 in Series, “Standing Firm in the True Grace of God”

“Expository preaching grounds the message in the text so that all the sermon’s points are the points in the text, and it majors in the texts’ major ideas.”  
—Tim Keller

“Expositional preaching is preaching in which the main point of the biblical text being considered becomes the main point of the sermon being preached.”  
—Mark Dever

“Expository preaching is that mode of Christian preaching that takes as its central purpose the presentation and application of the text of the Bible...all other issues and concerns are subordinated to the central task of presenting the biblical text.”  
—Albert Mohler

“The word *exposition* is related to the word *expose*—the expository preacher’s goal is simply to expose the meaning of the Bible, verse by verse.”  
—“Got Questions” website

**1 Peter 3:18a (NASB)** “For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, **so that** He might bring us to God...”

*He breaks the power of canceled sin,  
He sets the prisoner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean,  
His blood availed for me.*

—Charles Wesley

I. Christians Are Conquerors Over the Dominion of Sin (v. 1)

A. The Doctrine of Substitution (v. 1a)

**1 Peter 3:18a (NASB)** “For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God...”

**Exodus 12:13 (NASB)** “The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt.”

**John 1:29b (NASB)** “...Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

**Galatians 3:13 (NASB)** “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”

B. The Doctrine of Union With Christ (v. 1b)

**1 Corinthians 12:13 (NASB)** “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”

**Galatians 2:20 (NASB)** “I have been crucified with Christ; and 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 up for me.”

**Romans 6:6-7 (NASB)** <sup>6</sup> “knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; <sup>7</sup> for he who has died is freed from sin.”

“Our goal in life is to ‘cease from sin’. We will not reach this goal until we die, or are called home when the Lord returns; but this should not keep us from striving (1 John 2:28-3:9). Peter did not say that suffering of itself would cause a person to stop sinning...Suffering plus Christ in our lives can help us have victory over sin...”

—Warren Weirsbe

“The Christian ‘hath got release’ from sin. God broke the power of sin in his life when He saved him.”

—Kenneth Wuest

## II. Christians are Conquerors Over the Dissipation of Sin (vv. 2-4)

### A. A Depleted Life (v. 2)

### B. A Dissolute Life (v. 3)

1. Sensuality—That speaks of disgusting, shocking sin. It is one who acknowledges no restraint, one who lives completely for sinful pleasure.
2. Lusts—Longing for that which is sinful, unrestricted desires. The pornography epidemic falls under this.
3. Drunkenness—The word used here is the word for wine and the word for overflowing. It is habitual intoxication. The word used here could also include the use of narcotics.
4. Carousing—This word comes from the Greek word for the god of feasting and reveling. It pictures a party of revelers parading the streets and actually flaunting their sin.
5. Drinking Parties—People consumed with alcohol looking for a good time.
6. Abominable Idolatries—The original language refers to that which is illegal. It had to be really bad if the Roman government did not allow it.

### C. A Depraved Life (v. 4)

**Romans 12:2b (NASB)** “...be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

**Jeremiah 29:11 (NASB)** “For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’”

## III. Christians Are Conquerors Over the Doom of Sin (vv. 5-6)

### A. There Is Coming a Day of Reckoning (v. 5)

### B. There Is Coming a Day of Recognition (v. 6)

**Romans 8:18 (NASB)** “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

## Sermon 15: The Conquering Christian

### 1 Peter 4:1-6

Before we dig into this great passage in 1 Peter, allow me to share some general truths about preaching. I am convinced that the best way for a pastor to spiritually grow his congregation is

through expository preaching. What is expository or expositional preaching? Let me give you some definitions from some well-known expository preachers:

“Expository preaching grounds the message in the text so that all the sermon’s points are the points in the text, and it majors in the texts’ major ideas.” – Tim Keller

“Expositional preaching is preaching in which the main point of the biblical text being considered becomes the main point of the sermon being preached.” – Mark Dever

“Expository preaching is that mode of Christian preaching that takes as its central purpose the presentation and application of the text of the Bible . . . all other issues and concerns are subordinated to the central task of presenting the biblical text.” – Albert Mohler

“The word *exposition* is related to the word *expose*—the expository preacher’s goal is simply to expose the meaning of the Bible, verse by verse.” – *Got Questions* website

I am not saying that expository preaching is the only approach to preaching; I am saying it should be the predominate approach. Sometimes there is a need for a topical sermon. That method takes a topic and pulls out multiple passages that describe what the Bible, as a whole, teaches us about that topic. I have preached more than a few topical series in my years here. We have done a topical series on the ministry of the Holy Spirit, on the second coming of Christ, on stewardship, and what the Bible says about marriage, divorce, and singleness. These messages are grounded in the Scripture and are necessary. However, I am convinced that the norm, the majority of messages from the pulpit, should be expository in nature.

One of the best approaches to expository preaching is to go verse by verse through books of the Bible. Today is the fifteenth week that we have been going verse by verse through the book of 1 Peter. Last week, we looked at *The Conquering Christ*. We saw in 1 Peter 3:18-22 what Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection accomplished. In that message we saw that the primary accomplishment of Jesus’ death on the cross pertaining to us is found in 1 Peter 3:18a: “For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the just for the unjust, so that* He might bring us to God...” We saw that the Lord’s *primary* reason for saving us was not that we might escape Hell (though that is certainly true and important). The primary reason He suffered and died was that we might be brought to God, having been made a new creation, having been united with Christ (“in Christ”). Because we are *in Christ*, united with Christ, we are thus enabled to glorify, make much of, and fervently worship our God.

In this message, we are focusing on *The Conquering Christian*. Because we are in union with Christ (“in Christ”), His victory over temptation is our victory. His victory over death is now our victory. His victory over sin is our victory.

In this message, I am going to say some hard things about believers and sin. When you really examine this passage, you find that Christians are to have a militant attitude toward their own sin. Most professing Christians aren’t militant enough in their battle with sin. That word “militant” means ready and willing to fight; to be aggressive in defeating a foe. So many

professing Christians treat sin like a briar scratch instead of a spreading cancer. Conquering Christians hate sin – especially their own; conquering Christians “arm themselves” (see 4:1b) to walk in victory over sin. Conquering Christians have a strategy and they enlist help from other believers to hold them accountable, to confront them concerning their sin. In Christ, we have victory over sin, but that doesn’t mean that there are no battles and no wounds. My desire for each of us is that we hate *our* sin and are ready to take radical actions to slay it.

## **I. Christians Are Conquerors over the Dominion of Sin (v. 1)**

In this passage, we are introduced to two of the most important doctrines in Scripture that relates to conquering sin. I am speaking of the doctrine of *substitution* and the doctrine of *Union with Christ*.

### **A. The Doctrine of Substitution (v. 1a)**

“Therefore” points us back to the last text, but especially 1 Peter 3:18a: “For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just [substituting] for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God...” This truth of substitution is all through the Scripture – Old and New Testament. An Old Testament example would be when God was going to deliver the Israelites from 400 years of slavery in Egypt. We are told in Exodus 12 that an Angel of the Lord who was the instrument of God’s wrath against the Egyptians was going to kill the first born in every family in Egypt. The only way for the Israelites to escape this judgment was to kill a perfect male lamb and put the blood on the lintels and doorposts of their homes. Exodus 12:13: “The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt.” A Lamb was the substitute.

The sacrificial system revealed through Moses in the Old Testament was laying the foundation for the doctrine of substitution. Animals would be offered for sacrifice. The sacrifice was a reminder of the truth that the wages of sin is death and only God could provide the sacrifice to bring salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, God sent forth His only begotten Son to fulfill what the Old Testament sacrifices had pictured. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he knew that this was the One that all the lambs slain over all the centuries had been pointing to. He cried out in John 1:29b: “Behold, *the* Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” We read in Galatians 3:13: “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’” [obviously speaking of the cross]. On the cross, Jesus died as our substitute. This doctrine of substitution is literally found all through the Bible.

### **B. The Doctrine of Union with Christ (v. 1b)**

Here is a glorious truth: Christ’s death and His victory over sin is our death and victory over sin because at salvation we are placed in union with Christ. We were baptized into Christ resulting in His death for sin being our death to sin. 1 Corinthians 12:13: “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.” Water baptism is a testimony, a picture of the fact that we are in Christ and His death for sin is our death and His resurrection is our resurrection. Galatians 2:20: “I have been crucified with Christ; and 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 up for me.” Romans 6:6-7: “knowing this, that our old self was crucified with

*Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.”

In our text, the word translated “arm yourself” was used of a soldier putting on his armor and taking up his weapons. There is one Greek word that means “to be lightly armed”, but this word means to be heavily armed. We have a real enemy. This is real warfare! Satan will do all that he can to distract you, to intimidate you, and disarm you. That is why we are to “arm ourselves with the same purpose” (“the same way of thinking” ESV).

There is no more important doctrine in Scripture than the doctrine of our union with or our identification with Christ. If you are truly a Christian, when Jesus was on the cross, you were in Him; When He defeated sin and death, you were in union with Him. The old us who was a slave to sin has been crucified with Christ. Our response is to walk in faith, trusting that what God says is true and confessing that the old me has been crucified with Christ and Christ now lives in me to enable me to walk in obedience.

That last part of verse 1, “...he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin” is difficult to interpret. I think Warren Weirsbe has a good word here:

Our goal in life is to “cease from sin”. We will not reach this goal until we die, or are called home when the Lord returns; but this should not keep us from striving (1 John 2:28-3:9). Peter did not say that suffering of itself would cause a person to stop sinning... Suffering plus Christ in our lives can help us have victory over sin...

## **II. Christians are Conquerors over the Dissipation of Sin (vv. 2-4)**

That word “dissipation” isn’t used much today, but it is a really important word in scripture. It means “overindulgence in the pursuit of physical pleasures.” In verses 2-4 Peter gives us an ugly picture of the dissipation of sin. It leads to:

### **A. A Depleted Life (v. 2)**

“Depleted” means empty or used up. Notice the phrase in verse 2, “the rest of the time”. That speaks of the days one has left. A life out of the will of God and under the heavy hand of sin leads to a depleted, wasted life. What are you going to do with the “rest of your time”? Peter pleads with us to not waste the “rest of our time” walking after the flesh, leaving God and His will out our decision making.

I have seen people come to old age and look back at a “depleted” life and weep. You can’t go back and undo it; you simply must confess it as sin and seek the Lord so that not another minute is wasted. The Lord has not left us in this world to live a comfortable life, gather up all the stuff and toys we can and then coast on into Heaven. We are *not* here verse 2 says “...to live the rest of the time in the flesh ... for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.” I don’t know all the specifics of God’s will for the rest of your life, but I am positive I know what it is not! It is not to coast into Heaven after living a life without challenge, sacrifice, and spiritual fruit. We are here verse 2 says, not for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.” I love that little slogan that I changed a few words on: “Only one life; will soon be past. Only what we allow Christ to do through us will last.” Don’t come to the end with a depleted life.

## **B. A Dissolute Life (v. 3)**

“Dissolute” means “overindulging in physical pleasures”. I’ve already said a lot about that, “but wait, there’s more!” Peter gets specific.

1. Sensuality – That speaks of disgusting, shocking sin. It is one who acknowledges no restraint, one who lives completely for sinful pleasure.
2. Lusts – Longing for that which is sinful, unrestricted desires. The pornography epidemic falls under this.
3. Drunkenness – The word used here is the word for wine and the word for overflowing. It is habitual intoxication. The word used here could also include the use of narcotics.
4. Carousing – This word comes from the Greek word for the god of feasting and reveling. It pictures a party of revelers parading the streets and flaunting their sin.
5. Drinking Parties – People consumed with alcohol looking for a good time.
6. Abominable Idolatries – The original language refers to that which is illegal. It had to be really bad if the Roman Government did not allow it.

These and things like these are the things that Christ has given us victory over. A Christian may carelessly fall into one of these, but if they are truly a Christian, they are miserable and long to be delivered by the power of Christ.

## **C. A Depraved Life (v. 4)**

That description “excesses of dissipation” pictures a large melee racing toward what one commentator called “a euphoric stampede of pleasure seekers”. Excesses in this context pictures something filthy that is overflowing. Notice that they are surprised that you are not running with them. Their response is to “malign” you. That word means to slander or defame someone. It includes speaking evil of you.

This should not make you angry. It ought to cause you to weep tears of compassion for those who are captives of the evil one. They never experience the joy of Romans 12:2b being “...transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” They are blinded to what God can do in a life yielded to Him that is described in Jeremiah 29:11: “‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’”

## **III. Christians Are Conquerors over the Doom of Sin (vv. 5-6)**

Because Jesus’ death was a substitution for us and because at salvation, we were placed in union with Him; we were identified with Him, we are conquerors over the judgment of sin. We have nothing to brag about! We are where we are by the mercy and grace of God. In our flesh we are no better than any of those we just described in the last point. Having said that, those who

are without Christ are facing 2 things (Oh, may this lead us to our knees, not looking down on anyone). For those who don't know Christ:

### **A. There Is Coming a Day of Reckoning (v. 5)**

They may ridicule, reject, and malign, but our hearts should be breaking for them. By the way, they won't be making jokes when they have to "give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead." Nothing will be swept under the rug and nothing will be forgotten or overlooked. There is coming a day of reckoning. Oh, how that should motivate us to pray, share the Gospel and plead for their souls.

### **B. There Is Coming a Day of Recognition (v. 6)**

This is not speaking of a second chance after death. Notice, the "Gospel ... has "been preached". The Gospel was preached before they died. But for those who know Christ, they have experienced Romans 8:18: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

**NASB** (New American Standard Bible)

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