

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

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THE MARKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

The marks of identity of the New Testament church are plain and simple.

1. Jesus Christ was the builder, head, foundation, and possessor of it. (Matt. 16:18; Col. 1:18, 24).

2. It was established on the first Pentecost after the Lord's resurrection from the dead, in the city of Jerusalem, the record of which is in Acts 2.

3. Men of God proclaimed the facts of the Lord's death, burial and resurrection. (Acts 2; 3; 13; 17; 1 Cor. 15:1-4).

4. The proclamation of these facts was intended to cause men to believe, for no man could please God without faith. (Heb. 11:6; 2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 10:17.)

5. When men had been brought to believe they were then commanded to repent of their sins. (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30).

6. Men were obligated to confess their faith in Jesus Christ as being the Son of God. (Matt. 10:32; Lk. 12:8; Acts 8:37; 1 Tim. 6:13; Rom. 10:10).

7. Men were commanded to be baptized for the remission of their sins. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 10:48).

8. This baptism put one into Christ, into the Lord's church. (Acts 2:41, 47; Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27).

9. In Christ, brethren wore the name "Christian" because it was divinely given and because it gave honor and glory to Jesus Christ. (Acts 11:26; Jas. 2:7; 1 Pet. 4:16; Acts 4:12).

10. The church was referred to as being the church of the Lord and the church of Christ. (Acts 20:28; Rom. 16:16).

11. In their worship they taught (2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Pet. 3:15; Matt. 28:19-20); they sang (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; 1 Cor. 14:15); they prayed (Lk. 18:1; Jas. 5:16; Acts 2:42; 1 Thess. 5:17); they observed the Lord's Supper every first day of the week as is shown by consideration of Acts 20:7 together with 1 Cor. 16:2.

12. As a matter of duty and to help others they contributed of their means every first day of the week. (1 Cor. 16:2).

13. They had no creed but Christ, and no book but the Bible. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 John 9; Gal. 1:8-9; 2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 10:17).

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Editorial.....

Faith Is The Victory

In I John 5:4, the apostle John said: "and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." Jesus Christ said: "... In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) Christians should not be discouraged and faint by the way just because there will be tribulation. Jesus suggests that **He has overcome the world** and He exhorts disciples to "be of good cheer."

OVER WHAT WORLD DO WE NEED VICTORY?

In Gal. 1:4 Paul tells us that our Lord Jesus Christ "gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world..." Concerning Jesus, John the Baptist said: "**Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**" (John 1:29). We learn from John 15:18-19 that "the world" hates those who are truly following the Lord. John tells us in I John 5:19 that "**the whole world lieth in wickedness.**" Obviously the world that we need victory over has Satan as the prince over it.

To sum up, "**the whole world lieth in wickedness,**" this present world is evil, it has sin, and it hates those who are true disciples of Christ because it has Satan as its prince. **That is the world over which we need victory!**

HOW CAN WE BE VICTORIOUS OVER THE WORLD?

In order to be victorious over the world, we must have **faith**. (See I John 5:4). We should think positive and "**be of good cheer.**" (See John 16:33). The faithless can NOT overcome the world. We must truly believe "**that Jesus is the Son of God.**" (See I John 5:5:). For faith to be victorious, it must come by hearing the Word of God, (see Rom. 10:17), and it must be living, active and obedient. Jesus prayed that His disciples "**might be sanctified through the truth.**" (See John 17:14-21). The Word of God, when believed and obeyed, will sanctify us. If we are sanctified, we will NOT "**walk according to the course of this world.**" (See Eph. 2:2). To be victorious our faith must not allow us to "**be conformed to this world,**" but we must "**be transformed**" by the renewing of our mind. (See Romans 12:1-2). To be victorious, we must NOT allow "**the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things**" to enter in and "**choke the Word**" and cause it to be "**unfruitful.**" (See Mark 4:19; Matthew 13:22). Our faith must obey God. It must work "**by love.**" Otherwise it will NOT avail anything. (See Gal. 5:6). Our faith should be such that we overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of our testimony. This can be accomplished if we love NOT our lives unto the death. (See Rev. 12:11).

WHY BE VICTORIOUS OVER THE WORLD?

There are several reasons why we should desire to be victorious over the world. Let us consider some of them.

1. TO OVERCOME THE WICKED ONE. John wrote to young men and said: "**I write unto you ... because ye have overcome the wicked one.**" (I John 2:13-14). Our faith is NOT victorious unless it causes us to "**overcome the wicked one.**"

2. TO ESCAPE THE SECOND DEATH. Rev. 2:11 says: "**...He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.**"

3. TO BE CLOTHED IN WHITE RAIMENT. Rev. 3:5 says: "**He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment.**"

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Now Is The Time To Obey The Gospel

"Not yet," said the youth. "I don't want anything to interfere with my pleasure. When I grow older I'll think about my soul."

"Not yet," said the young married man. "I am just beginning to do well in life. When I see my business prospering, then I shall have more time."

"Not yet," said the middle aged business man. "I've worked so hard to place my business where it is today. I want to take it easy awhile and devote more time to recreation."

"Not yet," said the gray-haired man. "Somewhere along the line I have picked up some bad habits I'll have to conquer first. Then too, it would involve several changes, and when you get my age these changes are difficult and you don't want to make many."

And so he lived without God and died without hope. How sad! His big sin was procrastination. Is that yours today? "Today if ye shall hear His voice, harden not your hearts." "Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation."

—Selected via GOSPEL DIGEST

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FAITH IS THE VICTORY

4. TO SIT WITH CHRIST IN HIS THRONE. Rev. 3:21 says "To Him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne."

5. TO BE A PILLAR IN THE TEMPLE OF GOD. Rev. 3:12 says: "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God ..."

6. TO EAT OF THE TREE OF LIFE WHICH IS IN THE MIDST OF THE PARADISE OF GOD. Rev. 2:7 says: "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

Our faith will be tried. We may face tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril or the sword. We may be accounted as sheep for the slaughter. However, we can be "more than conquerors through Him that loved us." YES, FAITH IS THE VICTORY!

(CRS)

(Continued form page 1) THE MARKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

These are the marks of the New Testament church. In Luke 8:11 the Lord taught that the seed of the kingdom is the Word of God. Every seed brings forth after its own kind. The seed of the kingdom in the first century produced Christians and Christians only; members of the Lord's church and members of the Lord's church only. The same seed sown today will produce the same kind of crop. To produce something else, something else must be sown. But God forbids the sowing of anything else. (2 John 9; Gal. 1:8-9).

In order to be a New Testament church we must do what was done in the days of the apostles. We must teach what was taught then. The church of Christ is pleading with all its power for a complete return to simple New Testament Christianity. We teach exactly what the Bible teaches, all of what the Bible teaches, and only what the Bible teaches. We wear the name the Bible says wear, and worship God according to the divine pattern. We have no creed but Christ, and no book but the Bible. We call Bible things by Bible names, and do Bible things in Bible ways. We endeavor to speak where the Bible speaks and to be silent where the Bible is silent. In no other way can we be the New Testament church.

—Roy Deaver in
JUST A MOMENT, 9/25/54

Dangerous Symptoms

When the way to the meeting house seems too far; when the sermons seem too long; when you dislike to speak with the brethren; when the sermon makes you mad instead of penitent; when reading the Bible puts you to sleep; when you fret if called on to assist in the service or perhaps give a little more; then BEWARE! You are showing all the symptoms of becoming a BACKSLIDER!

—Taken from
TIDINGS OF TRUTH

Our Thoughts About Others

Someone has wisely said: "What we think about another may make no difference with regard to our character. We cannot in righteousness always approve the deeds of others, but we can and must feel charitable in our hearts toward him. It is one thing to disagree with a person, or to openly oppose his views and/or action, and another to despise him. "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you." It has been said that "Doing injury to your enemy puts you below him; revenge makes you even with him, but forgiving him lifts you above him."

—L. R. Hester, via Bulletin,
Greenville, Texas

F. W. RICHARDSON said: "The conscience has been compared to a clock, and the law of God to the sun. The clock is right only when it keeps time with the sun. And so it is with the conscience. It is a safe guide only when it is directed by the commandments of the Lord."

OUR REQUESTS

We (those who are truly Christians) don't ask you to accept **any book** as being authoritative in religious matters except the **New Testament of Jesus Christ**, who is truly the Son of the living God. We do not ask you to obey anything in order to be saved except the gospel of Christ as it is revealed in His Testament. We do not ask you to become anything or to remain anything except a true child of God — a **CHRISTIAN!** We do not ask you to worship in any way except "**in spirit and in truth**" as taught in God's inspired Word. We do not ask you to wear any human name, but we do urge you to wear the name **CHRISTIAN**. We do not ask you to defend any human organization, but we do ask you to defend the divine one—the **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST!** We do not ask you to place your hope in any man or any human system, but in **JESUS CHRIST!**

Why not simply **BE A CHRISTIAN!**

(CRS)

PROVERBS 20:14—"It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth."

Sentence Sermons

A lot of people spend six days sowing wild oats, then "go to church" on Sunday praying for a crop failure.

Love that doesn't understand the language of sacrifice is not love.

Silence is one of the great acts of conversation.

The first screw that comes loose in the head is usually the one that controls the tongue.

You should not be on the rocks, but on the **ROCK**.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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