

Sermon: Are You A Winner?

Text: I John 5:1-5 ESV

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Introduction: This remaining chapter in I John repeats many of the same points about what it takes to have a saving relationship with Jesus. John talks of belief or faith in terms of something we do, not just something or even Someone we know. John insists that love of God and others is also a key, and love does not mean putting up with or overlooking sin, but being willing to serve and sacrifice for others to demonstrate we are really God's children. And finally, John wants us to know we are and can be winners in life, and victorious in how we model Jesus to others.

Let's listen to these opening verses of chapter 5:

I John 5:1-5 ESV 1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This life is like sudden death in a sport's play-off. There is a time coming when there are no other chances - no more quarters, innings or holes to play.

How is it we can overcome and be victorious in this life? It is through faith, obedience to the Word of God, and love. Let's finish this sermon with God's words to all of us who would claim Jesus as Savior.

Additional Scripture for reflection:

John 16:33 ESV 33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

I John 2:13-14 ESV 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Revelation 3:21 ESV 21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Revelation 12:10-11 ESV 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers[and sisters] has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. 11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

Revelation 14:13 ESV 13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

When we have trouble in our lives, those of us who follow the Savior hear Paul's words of encouragement in our ears. **Romans 8:37 ESV** 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Are You a Winner? You can be if you are not.