Overcoming Our Accuser (Revelations 12:1-12)

Spiritual Warfare – Part 7 Life Church St. Louis – August 16, 2015 Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

1 John 3:8b (NIV) The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

2. Jesus has already _____ the heavenly war

Revelation 12:7-9 (NIV) And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Colossians 2:15 (NIV) And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Romans 16:20 (NIV) The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

1. _____ wars against the church

Revelation 12:1-3 (NIV) A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads.

Revelation 12:4-6 (NIV) His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

3. Believers ______ the accuser by ...

Revelation 12:10-12 (NIV) Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

3A. The ______ of Jesus
3B. The ______ of their testimony
3C. The ______ of their lives

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Intro. What does it mean that Jesus came to "destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8)?

What does Colossians 2:15 tell us about Jesus' triumph over Satan on the cross?

If Jesus triumphed over Satan on the cross, why does Romans 16:20 speak of a future crushing of Satan under the feet of believers?

In what ways do you believe that spiritual warfare in the world is currently intensifying?

- 1A. How does the red dragon, Satan, always seek to align himself with the crowns of governments (Revelation 12:1-3)?
- 1B. How did Satan attempt to devour Jesus (Revelation 12:4-6, Matthew 2:16)? How is this happening today?
- 1C. How is it encouraging that Satan swept only one third of the angels into his rebellion (Revelation 12:4)?
- 1D. How does every decision you make in life help either God's kingdom or the dragon?

- 1E. Why must every action in our lives be done to expand God's kingdom (1 Corinthians 10:31)?
- 2A. How does the war in heaven between Michael and his angels and the dragon and his angels relate to our struggle with evil spiritual powers (Revelation 12:7-9, Ephesians 6:12)?
- 2B. In what ways is Satan's defeat already accomplished and not yet complete (Revelation 12:9)?
- 2C. How does intercessory prayer affect the heavenly warfare described in Revelation 12?
- 3A. How is Satan, the accuser of believers before God (Revelation 12:10)?
- 3B. How can we overcome Satan, our accuser, by the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 12:11)?
- 3C. How can we overcome Satan, our accuser, by the word of our witness (Revelation 12:11)?
- 3D. How can we overcome Satan, our accuser, by the sacrifice of our lives (Revelation 12:11)?
- 3E. What accusation of Satan have you struggled to overcome?