

Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

These are Bold and Beautiful words that our Lord gives to us this morning.

The last time I was in the pulpit was Easter morning.

I ask each of you that day if “you were “risen” with Him?”

So let me ask you: are you closer to God today than you were a year ago, a month ago, a week ago –

have you given yourself completely to Christ?

As important, are you walking with Him –

are you sanctifying your life, day by day, by “setting apart” your life for His service?

By “setting ourselves apart” for His service –

we learn how we can best to walk / within His will (?) - as it then slowly becomes our own will.

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Easter morning I also spoke of unspeakable JOY and of a PEACE of calmness – which can only come through Jesus Christ.

This morning we read of this “revelation of God’s” true joy and peace.

So, let us take a look and see:

In the “Collect” reading this morning we pray that we may “think those things that are good and may we perform the same”

as we seek a faith of more than just words, but a faith of action as well.

In St. James Epistle we are told to “be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only”

once again it is stressed that we should “wake up” and “DO.”

The will to live a Christian life does not come easily because a Christian life is contrary to the world in which live,

it is not easy...it is down right difficult –

“it ain’t easy”; a southern boy might even say.

And yet, living this Christian Life **is exactly what God demands** from each and every of us.

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It is through the sanctifying process of “setting apart our lives” for Christ, from which this strength, to overcome the world, is obtained.

Through the sanctification process we develop and build a strength which is stronger than worldly strength.

And to do this....well, Let me be specific:

The Father simply wants His love for His Son /

To be mirrored in the hearts of those who believe and call upon Him – by those of us who call ourselves Christians.

Your love is to mirror the Father’s love for His son.

The Gospel goes deeper (and is clearer) into how we are to learn to do this.

Jesus tells us that He desires that our “JOY” - “may be full.”

Jesus then proceeds to tells us: how we are to obtain that fullness which is a mystery / of Gospel when He says:

“I shall shew you plainly of the Father.” Let me repeat those words

**“I SHALL SHEW YOU / PLAINLY / OF THE FATHER.”**

He did not say: well, go into the woods, or go here or there, and find the Father,

**nor did he say:** figure it out / **on your own.**

**No**, this is the same Jesus who told us earlier in the Gospel of John – (in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter)

that it is **He** that is the “way, truth, and life”...

and now he tells us that He will **be the one** to “shew us plainly of the Father.”

What more does he need to say / to do / that we might see and understand? ... ..

Does He need to suffer and die upon the cross for us?

Does he need to rise from Grave and Ascend to Father for us to believe?

Does he need to send the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us?

Well, that is exactly what He has done for us.

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So, do we now believe?

My brothers and sisters Jesus cannot be any clearer:

**it is He**, Jesus Christ,

that will lead each of us to the knowledge of God The Father,

and **this** / IS "A knowledge" / THAT IS TRUE –

because it is a knowledge from **"The Word"** that proclaims Truth.

Let us cut through all of the confusion,

for much deceitfulness surrounds us / within this corrupted and sinful world –

How many of you have heard this message (?)

**"well... , ... any religion is OK as long as you have one."**

as it is believed by some that all religions are basically the same...

(my friends, my family, let us speak plainly...let us speak truth among ourselves...and let us not be afraid as

we strive to relate to our Christian faith on a personal level

**this faith which we proclaim!**)

Let us seek on a human level an understanding of what is true Love.

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If you had a son or daughter, a loved one, that you sent away with a very important message,

a very special message, **to a people** who are very special to you,  
and you do this in order that your message / could be delivered

**directly and clearly.**

And this is a difficult journey because the people to whom you sent this message are in a foreign land.

Your message arrives and is delivered perfectly – just as you had foresaw (well... for even your friends sing and rejoiced when the message is finally delivered.)

However; this people unto you sent your son or daughter,

well, they refused to believe your message when they heard it with their own ears and saw with their own eyes ...

***it is as if their hearts had been hardened.***

Finally the natives in that land began to despise your son (or daughter) and finally they even persecuted and killed the one whom you had sent.

**They denied YOU because they denied YOUR messenger.**

Through your pain and suffering / of watching the one whom you loved suffer and die, would you not also suffer that pain

(if not **even MORE?**)

How would you react to these people?

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**Contrarily**, what if these people, unto whom you sent your message, would have received your message with praise and thanksgiving ...

and loved and honored your son or daughter ...

as they heard and received the message, which you had sent to them,

and what if they *even obeyed* them?

### **Would not your love for them be great?**

Would you not invite them into your home, dare I say - into your kingdom if you had one?

Would you not feel their love simply because they loved the one whom you sent?

Would you not call them family, friends; even brothers, and sisters?

What would you not do for those who loved your son or daughter?

You would do these things, and even more, simply because:

your love for your son or daughter was mirrored within their hearts.

Would not the love between you and them be strengthen,

would not your **Love be even intensify (?)**

And all because they simply loved you ...

### **through the loving of the one you had sent?**

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All of the religions of the world which do not acknowledge Jesus Christ

as the only begotten will never understand **this type of love**,  
which is beyond the love of which this sinful world proclaims.

This world's love so often revolves around pleasures of all types.

Sadly, the people of a twisted and confused understanding of love will  
not be able to return God's Grace which is

"His love for us, an unmerited Love,  
of which he has planted within every heart and soul."

For one must first understand God's true love, *the love beyond even  
that of a parent,*

and then they must acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the only,  
the only one **ever**, who is begotten of the Father.

Unless we see the fullness of the Holy Trinity, we will never fully see nor  
understand the full revelation of God.

It is only in acknowledging and honoring His Son  
that we will ever be capable of receiving that JOY and PEACE of which  
our souls desperately seek –

My friends, JOY AND PEACE is what God wants each of you to have.

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But first you must accept this gift from God.

In v.28 this morning we hear Jesus say

“I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world;  
again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.”

You see it is Jesus,

yesterday, today and tomorrow

HE is the WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE. *This is the theme of our youth summer camp....*

Finally, in first Timothy (3:16) this mystery of God’s Holiness is revealed to us:

“God was manifested in the flesh,

justified in the Spirit,

seen of angels,

preached to the Gentiles,

**believed on in this world,**

received up into glory”

God’s plan for our salvation is laid before us: and yet, we so often struggle.

My beloved – love the Son, just as the Father loves the son - -

for in doing so the Holy Ghost will stir up that Grace which God has placed within each and every heart.

DO THIS and experience a Joy and Peace that is beyond our ability even to comprehend.

Love Jesus, love His words, and obey His words.

Hear, accept and obey...do these things and He will fill your soul.

And Remember

it is He

who has overcome the world,

so smile, be joyful in His Name,

because he wants us all to

“Be of good cheer.”

The hour cometh and now is when....