

The Sword and Trowel

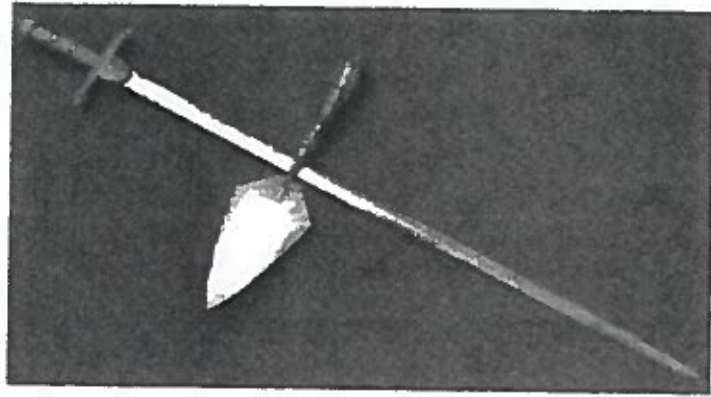
Church of Christ at Grissom

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Victory in the Lamb

The book of Revelation has been a source of disagreement and debate for as long as it has been in existence. Obviously we can't discuss, or even name, in a short article all the controversies surrounding the meaning of this book. However, I do think it is possible to summarize the main point of the book in a short article.

In a nutshell, Revelation is a book that gives us a picture of the church from the time John wrote it in 96 A.D. till the Lord Jesus returns for it at the end of time. During that time a number of enemies of God and His people, the church, will arise. They may cause turmoil and tribulation for a time, but ultimately victory is found for all of God's people in Jesus Christ. He defeats all the enemies who ever have or ever will arise against His purpose and His people. What a wonderful message! This is certainly something that we dare not lose sight of in understanding this tremendous book.

The imagery of the book of Revelation has always fascinated me. I'm sure that I am not alone in this. Each section of the book paints an image of what it is trying to communicate to the reader. It abounds with symbols and metaphors. It is also filled with Old Testament references and imagery from the prophets.

When we look at the overall picture of the enemies of God in the book we find a striking contrast to the overall picture of Christ it contains. The enemies are described as fearsome beasts. The devil is not just a serpent in this book, he is a dragon. He is not just any dragon either. He is a great fiery dragon with seven heads, ten horns and a great and powerful tail, **Revelation 12:2-3**. A dragon is often a symbol of an incredibly fearsome obstacle or opponent. We still speak of "slaying the dragon" in reference to conquering a seemingly unbeatable foe or accomplishing a nearly impossible task. Yet he is cast to earth along with his angels being overcome by the blood of the Lamb, **Revelation 12:9-11**. The dragon is overcome by the Lamb.

But the devil is not the only enemy that is described as a fearsome or terrible beast. In chapter 13 a beast that rises out of the sea is described. It has seven heads and ten horns. It has the features of a leopard, bear and lion, **Revelation 13:1-2**. It receives its great power from the dragon. He received a deadly wound that healed so the whole world marveled at the beast, and no one could make war with him, **Revelation 13:3-4**. All on the earth worshipped him except those whose names were in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, **Revelation 13:8**.

Also in chapter 13, we see another beast coming up from the earth with two horns like a lamb, but who spoke like a dragon, **Revelation 13:11**. He performs signs and deceives those on the earth, **Revelation 13:13-14**. He gives breath to the first and caused any who did not worship the image of the first beast to be killed, **Revelation 13:15**. He caused all to receive his mark in order to buy or sell, **Revelation 13:16-17**. As the chapter ends, you have the dragon and the two beasts all working together against God and His saints. Who could possibly stand up to such an unholy alliance?

The answer is found in chapter 14. It begins with a Lamb standing on Mount Zion along with 144,000 who had His Father's name written on their foreheads, **Revelation 14:1**. Then all of heaven resounds with a song of redemption as the wrath of God begins to be poured out and the Gospel is preached to every nation, tribe, tongue and people.

In the end it is not the monstrous beasts or even the dragon that have victory. It is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world and His followers who overcome. They overcome by the blood of the Lamb. Their names are written in His Book of Life. There is obviously much more to be said here. However, we must always remember that our victory is only in the Lamb. Many fearsome enemies may arise against God and His people, but the Lamb defeats them all.

In His Service

Terry Carter, Evangelist

If you have questions, comments or suggestions, please write them down and give to one of the elders before the congregational meeting on February 17th.

Please take one of the toy soldiers on the counter in the fellowship hall to remind you to pray for our soldiers.

Coming Events

February 16 Youth Rally at Countryside Church – Grabill, IN – 9:30 – Kendall Faull will be the special speaker. Lunch is provided along with a different version of dodge ball. Everyone welcome.

PRAYER CONCERNS

George Thurston
for an evangelist for Grissom church to follow Terry
Brenda’s friend (daughter needs spiritual help)
Karen VanNote (Brenda’s mom) – doing better/ pray for Christian fellowship)
Zac Schultz & family (took grandmother off life support)
Paul McMahon (Mary Sue Friend’s son) - spiritual
Russell Tague (congestive heart failure)
our evangelist, elders & deacons (& their families)
Christians around the world being persecuted
Carol See (has clearance for surgery – now await surgeon call))
Kendall Faull (life situation)
Alana Gingerich (Lymphoma)
Bonnie Barnhill (deployed to Africa for 7 months)
Luca (Angel Mercado’s nephew) – having trouble breathing
Kmart employees (loss of jobs due to store closing)
David Marks (recovery after surgery)
Roger VanNote (Brenda’s step-dad) – for his health
Heather Bowman (Frieda’s daughter)
Rick Wakefield (upcoming surgery, possible cancer - & to find work)

Mary Copp
Richard Kees (Melanoma)
Mark Whitsett
Joy White (pregnancy issues)
Summit School of Preaching
our missionaries
Rodney Freer (serviceman shot in Amsterdam) - in serious condition/ surgery
Sherry Barker (Brenda’s sister) - spiritual
John Merritt (life situation)
George Faull
James (Carter’s nephew) - spiritual
our troops
President Trump & the Mexican border wall
Angel Mercado
Ladies’ Bible study
Steve Emerick (lung problems)
Jeff VanCuren (continued recovery)
Tom Profit (George Faull’s friend) - cancer
Logansport church

ATTENDANCE

Sunday School	57
A.M.Church	91
P.M.Evangelistic Service	43
Tithes & Offerings	\$5,796
Wednesday Evening	86

SERVICES

Sunday School	9:00
A.M.Church	10:00
Men’s Prayer Meeting	5:30
Women’s Prayer Meeting	5:30
P.M.Evangelistic Hour	6:00
Wednesday P.M.	7:00
Youth for Truth (Wedn.)	7:00

Proverb for the Week:

Meditate on this Proverb: 3:1-4 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments. For Length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee; bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart. So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.