

DEEPER LIFE BIBLE CHURCH NL | SUNDAY MESSAGE | 04 JUNE 2023

LOCATING AND DESTROYING THE ENEMIES OF OUR VICTORY

Bible Reading: Jude 1:1-24

Victory is originally a military term which means to conquer, to vanquish, to have supremacy, to defeat an enemy or opponent in battle. Its Latin form, 'Victoria', signifies overcoming in a fight. We are at war with the devil and his agents. Enemies of our victory are things that weaken us in battle or make us vulnerable to attack. They are things we should control; otherwise, they will give Satan grounds to defeat us. Whether individually or corporately, victory requires us to locate those enemies and destroy them.

THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR PERMANENT VICTORY Jude 1:1-3

Christianity is a victorious faith; believers in Jesus are marked for conquest (Luke 10:19,20; 12:6,7; Col 3:3). The infallible word of God is the foundation of our victory; that is where true faith comes from (Acts 20:32; Mat 7:24,25; 1 Tim 4:13-16). It emphasises God's supremacy, Christ's sacrifice on the Cross for our sins, the necessity of repentance and faith, God's power for righteousness and the narrow way that leads to heaven. This is the basis that makes individuals and the Church strong against every evil power. It retains God's presence and enables us to war a good warfare (Rom 8:31; 1 Tim 1:18,19). It is our sure foundation; standing upon this foundation, we have continual victory no matter the stride (Mat 7:24,25).

THE CORRUPTERS OF OUR PRECIOUS VICTORY Jude 1:4-16

Whatever seeks to contest the incontestable is the enemy of victory (Gen 3:1). Whatever hinders God's presence and free move in our midst is the enemy of our victory. The Bible gives us several examples:

- **Hophni and Phinehas occupying the priesthood** (1 Sam 2:22-24,34): This is the corruption of immorality and sacrilege from the top. When ministers or workers seduce or defile others, it is abomination!
- **Achan and Gehazi active in divine service** (Jos 7:1,10-12; 2 Kings 5:20): This is the cancer of covetousness and hypocrisy; it injures God's people and brings a reproach to God and His Church.
- **Absalom and Ahithophel leading in the Church** (1 Sam 15:1-6; 17:14,23; 18:15): This is the ulcer of rebellion and pride; it fights God's appointed leadership and eventually destroys innocent people.
- **Abner and Jonah having their way** (2 Sam 3:3,5; Jonah 1:1-6): This is the plague of strong-headed people fighting God's will, which brings others in danger, leads to unnecessary wars and loss of lives.
- **Pharisees and Sadducees ruling the synagogue** (Mat 15:12-14; 22:23,29): This is the distraction of legalism and ignorance. Religious tradition, extrabiblical interpretation and ignorance are promoted. Sentiments reign; dreams rule. Victory is far away because God's honour is trampled on.
- **Dinah and Demas seeking adventure** (Gen 34:1,2; Isa 3:16; 2 Tim 2:4; 4:9,10; James 4:4): This is the contamination of worldliness. When daughters of Zion mingle with daughters of Sodom and leaders solicit the approval of sinners or the apostate Church, we will have a defeated, frustrated Church.
- **Balaam, Nicolas and Jezebel teaching the congregation** (Rev 2:14,15): This is the pollution of false doctrine and impurity. Where seductive doctrines prevail, many will be slain. When unclean people minister or are entrenched in the Church leadership, it spells disaster for the congregation.
- **Seers and sailors deserting the ship** (Mat 23:38; Acts 27:21,30,31): This is the destruction of a house left desolate. When the voice of bible preachers is drowned by popular gospel and members having itching ears prevail, there is no hope of victory no matter what else we may have.

THE CONFLICT FOR OUR PRESERVED VICTORY Jude 1:3,17-24

You are part of this conflict if you love the Lord. Join us in this fight of faith. What should we do?

- **FEAR:** Fear God. Fear evil. Be no stumbling-block to others (Ecc 12:13; John 21:15; 1 Cor 6:12; 10:23).
- **FLEE:** Flee fornication; flee idolatry; flee covetousness; flee youthful lusts. Avoid them like a plague (1 Cor 6:18; 10:14; 1 Tim 6:11; 2 Tim 2:22; Mat 5:29,30).
- **FROWN:** Avoid fellowship with the disorderly, the polluter, seducer and carrier of false doctrine. Be ruthless and radical against them no matter where or who (1 Cor 5:9-11; 2 John 8-11; Titus 3:10).
- **FIGHT:** Stand up for the truth. Fight to preserve purity in your life and in God's assembly. Exalt holiness above gifts, talents, prosperity or any other thing (2 Thes 3:14,15; 1 Tim 6:12; Deut 23:14; Eph 5:1-4).