

Round Top Church Christian Fellowship

Sermon Series in 2 Peter

2 Peter 2

The Covenant Victory

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(All Scripture is from the New American Standard Bible, unless otherwise noted.)

We will be consistent this morning and say that it has been four weeks since the Resurrection, and Jesus is still walking about on the face of the earth. Scripture tells us that Jesus was with the apostles for a period of over forty days (Acts 1:3). That is a long time. We do not see this period of time recorded by the Jewish or Roman authorities running around looking for a resurrected Jesus. We see them guarding the tomb to the point of the Resurrection and then they make up a story that the apostles had taken the body of Jesus. I see that if the authorities had made a public manhunt of the resurrected Jesus then they would have substantiated the claims of the Resurrection which would be an admission that their crucifixion did not work. So, they are silent.

It was not until Peter shows up on the steps of the Temple in Jerusalem, at Pentecost, do they realize the crucifixion did not have the compelling effect on the followers of Jesus. Peter was going to preach in the name of a crucified man, Jesus. This is our call today. In the face of sold-out secular humanist religious leaders and their followers, and some oppressive government officials, we are compelled to preach and teach in the name of Jesus from the Word of God. The Cross, the Resurrection, is more powerful than any man-made force. Remember, Jesus is building an assembly of Believers that not even the gates of Hades shall overpower (Matthew 16:18). We are that congregation. And all the Saints say AMEN.

Acts 1:1 The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,

² until the day when He was taken up, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.

³ To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of forty days*, and *speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God*.

⁴ And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," *He said*, "you heard of from Me;

⁵ for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

⁸ but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (Acts 1:1-8 NAS)

Now that we have recognized we are that **resurrected empowered congregation**, we will start today in the Gospel of John in the sixth chapter. We will then move to 2 Peter. Obviously, there will be a connection between the two sections of Scripture as the whole Bible is woven together to create a tapestry of God's testimony to us. John six is one of many passages of

Scripture that reveals the true nature of man. Man, on his own, is weak and fearful. Unless man surrenders to God, he cannot live the “victory life” God has planned. Over and over again, it is the Spirit of God in us that gives us victory over this life. It is the Spirit of Christ that we desire to project and serve in the spirit that the world sees in us. If we do not have the Spirit of the Resurrected Christ in us then we are not His (Romans 1:9, 8:9).

In John six, the incarnated God, Jesus the Christ, is teaching the disciples and the people who had been following Him. However, they do not all receive His teaching. Those that leave Jesus at this point are exposed for who they are . . . pretenders who were trying to make Jesus into an earthly Messiah. They could not see the kingdom of God, and therefore they did not enter the kingdom of God (John 3). They had not surrendered to God; they had not been born-again. They simply heard but did not surrender to the Gospel. *For in this case, they are of the group who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, (which in John’s Gospel is Jesus in front of them)* ⁵ and have tasted the good Word of God and the powers of the age to come, (Hebrews. 6:4-5). However, they refused to make that final demarcation of surrender, and they walked away.

John 6:24-71

Jesus at the Sea of Galilee

²⁴ When the **multitude** therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, **they** themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

²⁵ And when **they** found Him on the other side of the sea,

they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?"

26 Jesus answered them and said,

"Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves, and were filled.

27 "Do not **work** for the food which perishes,
but for the food which endures to eternal life,
which the Son of Man shall give to you,
for on Him the Father, *even* God, has set His seal."

28 They said therefore to Him,

"What shall we do, that we may **work** the works of God?"

29 Jesus answered and said to them,

"This is the **work** of God, **that you believe** in Him whom He has sent."

30 They said therefore to Him,

"What then do You do for a sign, that we may see, and believe You?
What **work** do You perform? [Jesus points to the work of the Cross]

31 "Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written,

'He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.'"

32 Jesus therefore said to them,

"Truly, truly, I say to you,
it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven,
but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven.

33 "For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven,

and gives life to the world."

³⁴ They said therefore to Him, "Lord, evermore give us this bread."

³⁵ Jesus said to them,

"I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger,
and he who believes [their work, which is not real acts of work]
in Me shall never thirst.

³⁶ "But I said to you,

that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe.

³⁷ "All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me,

[God the Father qualifies those that are given to Jesus from the Book of Life, whose names have been there since the foundation of the world. This is for God to know and not man. Man has tried to control access to God's Book of Life, but man does not possess this book. Varying religious leaders throughout history have claimed to be the gatekeeper to enrollment in God's book, but do not have God's sovereign authority. Remember, God the Father and Jesus "The Christ" are one. Jesus says that if you have seen Him, then you have seen the Father. The Father-Son relationship is used for our anthropomorphic understandings. This relationship in the first century is to say that the two are one. Revelation 3:5, 8, 17:8; 20:12, 15; 22:19; Exodus 32:33, Luke 10:20, Psalms 69:28.]

and the one who comes [surrenders] to Me I will certainly not cast out.

³⁸ "For I have come down from heaven,

not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

³⁹ "And this is the will of Him who sent Me,

that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing,
but raise it up on the last day.

⁴⁰ "For this is the will of My Father,
that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him,
may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

⁴¹ **The Jews** therefore were grumbling about Him, because He said,
"I am the bread that came down out of heaven."

⁴² **And they were saying,**

"Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we
know? How does He now say, 'I have come down out of heaven '?"

⁴³ **Jesus answered and said to them,** "Do not grumble among yourselves.

⁴⁴ "No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him;
and I will raise him up on the last day.

⁴⁵ "It is written in the prophets, [Jeremiah 31:33, 34]

'And they shall all be taught of God.'

Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.

⁴⁶ "Not that any man has seen the Father,
except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father.

⁴⁷ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.

⁴⁸ **"I am the bread of life.**

⁴⁹ "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

50 "This is the bread which comes down out of heaven,
so that one may eat of it and not die.

51 "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven;
if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever;
and the **bread also**

which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh."

52 The Jews therefore *began* to argue with one another, saying,

"How can this man give us *His* flesh to eat?"

53 Jesus therefore said to them,

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.

54 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

55 "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.

56 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

57 "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

58 "This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate, and died, he who eats this bread shall live forever."

59 These things He said in the synagogue, as He taught in Capernaum.

60 Many therefore of His disciples, when they heard *this* said,

"This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?"

61 But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, **said to them**,
"Does this cause you to stumble?"

62 "What then if you should behold the Son of Man ascending where He was before?"

**63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing;
the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.**

64 "But there are some of you who do not believe."

For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him.

65 And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the Father."

66 As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him anymore.

67 Jesus said therefore to the twelve,

"You do not want to go away also, do you?"

68 simon Peter answered Him,

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.

69 "And we have believed

and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

70 Jesus answered them,

"Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?"

⁷¹ Now He meant Judas *the son* of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him. (Jn. 6:24-71 NAS)

2 Peter 2:2 ff False Teachers

² And many will follow their **sensuality**,

and because of them the **way of the truth** will be maligned;

³ and in *their* **greed** they will exploit you with false words;

their **judgment from long ago is not idle**,

and their **destruction is not asleep**.

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned,

but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

⁵ and did not spare the ancient world,

but preserved **Noah**,

a preacher of righteousness,

with seven others,

when He brought a **flood** upon the world of the **ungodly**;

⁶ and *if* He condemned the cities of **Sodom and Gomorrah**

to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes,

having made them an example

to those who would live ungodly thereafter;

Jude 1:6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under

darkness for the judgment of the great day ⁷ Just as **Sodom and Gomorrah** and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example, in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire. (Jude 1:6-7)

Mat 10:15 "Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.

2 Pet 3:7 But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

2 Peter 2: ⁷ and *if* He rescued **righteous Lot**,

oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men

⁸ (for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man,

while living among them,

felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day

with *their* lawless deeds),

[This is what Believers go through today.]

2 Peter 2: ⁹ *then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation,

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

Revelation 3:10 Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth.

Jude 1:24-25 ²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen

2 Peter 9 cont . . . and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

¹⁰ and especially those who indulge the flesh

in *its* corrupt desires and despise authority.

Daring, self-willed,

they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties,

¹¹ whereas angels

who are greater in might and power

do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.

⁹ But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." (Jude 1:9 NAS)

¹² But these,

like unreasoning animals,

born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed,

reviling where they have no knowledge,

will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,

¹³ **suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong.**

They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime.

They are stains and blemishes,

reveling in their deceptions,

as they carouse with you,

¹⁴ having eyes full of adultery and that never cease from sin,

enticing unstable souls,

having a heart trained in greed,

accursed children;

¹⁵ forsaking the right way they have gone astray,

having followed the way of Balaam, the *son* of Beor,

who loved the wages of unrighteousness,

¹⁶ but he received a rebuke for his own transgression;

for a dumb donkey, speaking with a voice of a man,

restrained the madness of the prophet.

[Balak asks Balaam to curse Israel Numbers 22.]

¹⁷ These are springs without water,

and mists driven by a storm,

for whom the black darkness has been reserved.

¹⁸ For speaking out arrogant *words* of vanity

they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality,

those who barely escape from the ones who live in error,

¹⁹ promising them freedom

while they themselves are slaves of corruption;

for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

²⁰ For if after they have escaped

the defilements of the world
 by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
 they are again entangled in them and are overcome,
 the last state has become worse for them than the first.

²¹ For it would be better for them

not to have known the way of righteousness,
 than having known it,
 to turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them.

[**John 6 they knew.** The focus on John six is not to say that those in John six had the same sin problem that Peter mentions in 2 Peter 2, but it is to say that these Peter address have turned away after the Gospel had been delivered to them. Peter had seen this before when he was present in John 6. Peter cautions his audience about the true intent and outcome of allowing these false teachers to stay with them. They malign the Gospel and will destroy lives.]

John 6: ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered Him,

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.

⁶⁹ "And we have believed

and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

cont. 2 Peter 2: 22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb,

"A dog returns to its own vomit,"

and, "A sow, after washing, *returns* to wallowing in the mire."

Review John 6 and the condition of the followers (the multitudes John 6:24) as compared to Peter with his statement to Jesus in John 6:68.

The Believers destination (eternal life to be raised on the last day John 6:39) and the destination of those that are like dogs and pigs who were revealed when they walked away from Jesus when He told them they had to eat His flesh and drink His blood. Their last state became worse for them than the first (2 Peter 2:20). This is a spiritual teaching that they could not understand because they did not have spiritual ears to hear or eyes to see. Only Believers, like Peter, who did have spiritual discerning eyes and ears received the teaching. It is not that Peter had perfect understanding at that point, because later he denied Christ. Peter resembles all of us. We are up and down in our relationship with God. However, in the end we return and overcome and will be raised on the last day. **This is our covenant victory in Christ.**

John 6:39 "And this is the will of Him who sent Me,
that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing,
but raise it up on the last day.

⁴⁰ "For this is the will of My Father,
that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him,
may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

Peter had enough faith not to walk away from Jesus. The false followers, the multitudes, were looking for just temporal bread and returned to their former life, to what they really were; they sought the wrong kind of messiah. They were not looking for an eternal Messiah, just an earthly king-deliverer.

**John 6: ⁶³ "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing;
the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.**