

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Keys To Our Victory

(Jerry Fite)

It is always intriguing to the sport's enthusiast to contemplate the keys to victory in an upcoming game. Understanding how games are won and lost, which help explain the final numbers on the score board, are important to coaches, players and fans. If the important keys are favorably executed, victory usually ensues. In defeat, the neglect of an important key can usually be cited.

In our more important spiritual battle with Satan, God gives us three important keys in our overcoming the Devil. “*And they overcome him because of the blood of the lamb, and because of the word of their testimony and they loved not their life even unto death*” (Revelation 12:11). The keys to victory combine what God has done for us through Christ, and what the Christian does in his or her life.

The first key is centered in the blood of the lamb. Jesus is the slain lamb whose blood has the power to take away the sin of the world (John 2:29, Revelation 1:5). A holy God cannot over-

look sin. But our loving God gave His Son to die for us and allow us to be justified from our sins and escape the wrath of God. (Romans 5:8-9). We do not have to be defeated in sin because “*Now is come the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ*” (Revelation 12:10). Salvation is centered in the sacrifice of Jesus. We do not have to be defeated in sin, but can be victorious through the blood of the slain lamb, who now stands and rules with power in His spiritual kingdom (cf. Revelation 5:6)

The second key is centered in the word which reveals God's mind with instruction, and guidance in the way of salvation (I Corinthians 2:10-13). The Gospel is God's power unto salvation (Romans 1:16). It communicates the basis of our salvation: the death and resurrection of Christ (I Corinthians 15:1-3).

The second key is not just about the existence of God's word, but the key to our victory is our faithfulness to it. We must hold fast to the word (2 Thessalo-

nians 2:13). Christians from the time in which they make the good confession that Jesus is the Christ (Philippians 2:11, Acts 8:37), manifest good works (Matthew 5:16), and teach others the word (Acts 8:4) are connected with Christ and His word in “their testimony”.

The third key lies in the heart. Victorious Christians “*love not their life even unto death.*” Christians understand that they have overcome death through the resurrected Christ (I Corinthians 15:55-58), but may have to die for Christ and His truth. Antipas was faithful to the faith of Christ even unto death (Revelation 2:13-14, 2:10).

This key to victory demands faith and conviction. We must believe that though we die, we shall live eternally with the Lord (John 11:25). We must also be convicted in the depth of our hearts of this truth. Persecution combined with the fear of death is a powerful tool of Satan to defeat us eternally (Revelation 12:12-13, 21:8). Incorporate these keys to overcome Satan!