**God’s Threefold Victory Plan**

**Read:** Revelation 12:10-12

**Text:** Revelation 12:11 “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”

**Introduction:** Recently I was listening to Dave Ramsey on the radio. He was telling a caller about how to counsel her parents in regards to money. He told her that rather than to lecture her mother that she should use her own story as an example. He told her not tell her parents that they were wrong but rather to provide a testimony of how she has been able to improve her life through the processes she has learned. That discussion reminded me of this passage of scripture.

**War in Heaven:** In the verses preceding the ones that we read we find out that there is a war in heaven with Michael and his angels. They are fighting the dragon (satan) and his angels (demons). Satan loses and is cast out of heaven, to earth, with his angels.

**A Voice From Heaven:** then announces what shows up when satan is cast out. (1) Salvation: When salvation shows up satan leaves. (2) Strength: satan has kept you in a weakened state. (3) Kingdom of God: replaces the kingdom of satan. (4) Power of Christ: satan is powerless over believers. (5) Deliverance from the Accuser. Then the voice announces a threefold victory Plan. That is what I want to preach about.

**I. Blood of the Lamb:** The Christian faith has been criticized by skeptics as a bloody religion. In the Old Testament salvation came by the repentant sinner bringing a lamb, a turtle dove, or a heifer (depend-ing on what sin needed forgiven) to the priests. The priests would inquire as to the sin needing forgiven and then would kill the sacrifice and lay its parts out on the brazen altar. As the sacrifice was offered the repentant sinner would stand to the side and rejoice that their sin was atoned for by the shed blood of the sacrifice. Jesus is called The Lamb of God for a reason. When He submitted Himself for crucifixion on the cross His perfect, sinless, willing, offering was sufficient for any and all sin for whosoever would call on Christ for forgiveness. There is no way to defeat satan without the blood of The Lamb of God!

**II. Word of their Testimony**: Experts will tell you that the best way to sell a product is by the personal endorsement of a happy customer. The message here is plain. This is the way to defeat satan and his plans for you. Tell the world what Jesus has done for you. The more that you testify the less power the devil has over you. Think about it this way when you begin to talk about what Jesus has done in your life the devil gets mad. Anything that makes satan mad also makes God happy. Your testimony is to satan; what Kryptonite is to Superman.

Your testimony…yes your testimony has the power to enrage all the hosts of hell. Your testimony is as powerful as the deepest theological argument of any theologian. I may choose to differ with you on a theological point or two but there is no way that I can argue with your testimony. What Jesus has done for you personally, only you know, and no one can take that away from you. If you don’t know what to say to your lost friends just start telling them what the Lord has done for you. If you have a hard time remembering scripture just tell people what Jesus did for you personally. Who can argue with that? Who can say that Jesus did not do what you know that He did do?

**III. Loved God more than life:** What are you willing to die for? Over 1196541 people have died in America’s wars since this country was founded. People have lost their lives trying to pass a vehicle that they thought was going too slow. I know of a man who had a heart attack in the middle of a screaming rage. I lost a friend who was riding in the back seat of car, driven by, a drunk driver. The list is never ending.

The way to defeat satan is to love God so much that death is not a threat. Think of it this way: If you kill someone who has been washed in the blood of Christ, has faithfully testified to His goodness and loves God more than life itself; where are they going to go? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ So how is going to heaven, in any way, threatening?

**Conclude:** The 12th verse starts out like this: “Therefore rejoice, *ye*

heavens, and ye that dwell in them…” Why rejoice? Because we have

defeated satan. We have overcome satan by the blood of the Lamb, the

word of our testimony, and love Him more than life itself. The good

news is that every one of us has the power, this morning, to overcome

satan and all of the demons of hell. If you cannot rejoice then which of

these are you failing at?