

WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS

Romans 8:37-39

³⁷ *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

³⁸ *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

³⁹ *Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

God created us and Jesus saved us to be more than conquerors. Note, the Bible does not say that we are conquerors, but the Bible says we are more than conquerors which means that we are more than victorious. This also means that in every situation the victory will ultimately be ours. **Regardless of what we may encounter, we will be victorious because of our inseparable relationship with God through Jesus Christ.** People who have really been born again can be assured that absolutely nothing “shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.” Thus, since we are more than conquerors, let’s live victoriously even amid this present pandemic.

WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS

As a congregation, we should shelter in place and avoid public gatherings for a short time because the Covid virus has spiked terribly in certain places like the Bay Area. **To keep us safe, we will not assemble in person this coming Sunday;** however, we will continue to worship, congregate, and study virtually and online. For example, I encourage everyone to view our worship via YouTube especially until we reopen for in-person worship. As in the past, we should be able to view each service on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. or thereafter.

JESUS ENDORSED TITHING

Matthew 23:23

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.”

Often, I have encountered people who incorrectly believe that Jesus said nothing about tithing. In Matthew 23:23, Jesus rebuked Scribes and Pharisees for being hypocrites concerning their way of tithing. The Scribes and Pharisees’ way of tithing was unacceptable to Jesus because they omitted weightier matters of the

law, judgment, mercy, and faith. Jesus told them that they should be practicing these weightier matters, but Jesus also concluded by telling them to continue tithing when he said: “not to leave the other undone” (meaning don’t stop tithing). Jesus came to fulfill the law, and if he was against tithing, he would not have endorsed it as he did in Matthew 23:23 by saying: “not to leave the other [tithing] undone.” Tithing is a constant practice of worshipping God by giving Him back 10% of our gross income; moreover, when we tithe faithfully, God promised to bless us abundantly (Mal. 3:10). Hence, even though we are not assembling together for a short period of time, let us be faithful to God with our Tithes and Offerings as God is faithful to us with His manifold blessings. We currently give in person during Sunday Morning Worship Celebrations, by mailing or dropping off our Tithes and Offerings at our Administration Building or South Campus, or by giving online through our website (sjmbc.org).

OUR DAILY BREAD

Thursday, January 13, 2022: Genesis 31-32; Matthew 10:24-42
Friday, January 14, 2022: Genesis 33-35; Matthew 11
Saturday, January 15, 2022: Genesis 36-37; Matthew 12:1-21
Sunday, January 16, 2022: Genesis 38-40; Matthew 12:22-50
Monday, January 17, 2022: Genesis 41; Matthew 13:1-32
Tuesday, January 18, 2022: Genesis 42-43; Matthew 13:33-58
Wednesday, January 19, 2022: Genesis 44-45; Matthew 14:1-21
Thursday, January 20, 2022: Genesis 46-48; Matthew 14:22-36
Friday, January 21, 2022: Genesis 49-50; Matthew 15:1-20
Saturday, January 22, 2022: Exodus 1-3; Matthew 15:21-39

THANK YOU

By the grace of God, I am recovering well from Covid. After completing two weeks of being quarantined, I tested negative this week which ostensibly means that I no longer have the virus. Even though I am trying to overcome certain side effects (chronic coughing and fatigue), I feel much better, and I thank you for your prayers and expressions of love.

MEMORANDUM

Building Fund Pledges: We still desire to construct a multimillion-dollar Family Life Center, adjacent to our current sanctuary at the North Campus, which will consist of a gymnasium, game room (for the youth), and weight room. Many of us

made a pledge that we fulfilled, but some have not. I personally thank those of us who have already fulfilled our pledge and others who have made “Building Fund” contributions. I encourage everyone (if you have not already done so) to participate financially as soon as possible in this building project by choosing one of the following tiers:

- 1) \$10,000.00 or more
- 2) \$5,000.00 to \$9,999.00
- 3) \$1,000.00 to \$4,999.00
- 4) \$500.00 to \$999.00
- 5) Below \$500.00

Weekly Activities: I strongly encourage everyone to participate in the St. John activities that benefit you. In regards to each of the following activities, visit our website at sjmbc.org if you need more information. What’s forthcoming?

Sundays:

- Virtual Worship Celebration at 11:00 a.m. or thereafter
- Online Church School at 2:00 p.m.
- Online J.A.M. (Children Fellowships) 2nd and 4th Sundays at 4:00 p.m.
- Online Lord’s Supper 1st Sundays at 7:00 p.m. To participate, each believer will need bread or a cracker and grape juice (or something similar).

Mondays:

- Preparation For Grocery Giveaway at 10:00 a.m. (South Campus)
- Online Women Missionary Ministry (General Mission) 4th Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesdays:

- Grocery Giveaway (North Campus and South Campus) at 12:00 p.m.
- Online Church Leadership Council Tuesdays before 3rd Sundays at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays:

- Online Prayer at 12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- Online Church School at 7:00 p.m.

BIBLICAL RECAPITULATION

God wants believers to still live victoriously despite this pandemic and to always be mindful that “we are more than conquerors.”

May God bless and sustain each of us.

Your Servant In Christ,

Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor