



---

# Campbell Chapel

---

Sermon by Bob Bradley



# How to Overcome the World

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

Bob Bradley

- 1 John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.
- 1 John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.
- 1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.
- 1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.
- 1 John 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

John was a fellow, that if we understand things correctly; he was the half brother of Jesus. We know he was there with Jesus. He saw the things that went on. He saw the miracles that Jesus did. He saw the many times that He raised people from the dead. He was there at the cross. He was there on resurrection morning. He was very instrumental in the early church...after Pentecost. We know that John and others were very instrumental in things that went on.

John is writing. He is writing to Christian people. However, he is writing to a people—he has got, no doubt, a lot of different subjects—but one thing he is going to deal with here in chapter five is that he is going to deal with doctrine. When I say doctrine, it is faith. He is dealing with what these people have faith in. The people in the land, the people he was talking to, Gnosticism was a false religion that was very prevalent in the land. Gnosticism taught that Jesus could not have been God because He had a body of flesh. They taught that all flesh was evil and wicked and no good. They taught that since Jesus had a body that He could not have been Christ. In the some of the teachings they went a little bit farther than that. They said that Jesus was Christ until He went to the cross, and right before He went to the cross, then He gave up the Christ part of things.

I was thinking about that today. People will believe anything but the truth. Do you know what that sounds like? That is absolute stupidity. It really is, but people were believing that. People were believing the false teachings that were going on. Not only here—these people that John was talking to but the ones that Paul dealt with and many different places that he went, gossip was a big problem. However, some of the things they taught were absolutely crazy. Yet people believed them. They would not believe

the simple thing that Jesus died and rose from the dead that people could go to heaven. They would not put faith in that but they would put faith in some lame brain excuse that man has come up with. John wants them to know that if you are going to go to heaven then there is only one way you are going to get there. If you are a child of God, then there is only one way you can be a child of God. You cannot be a child of God and believe what Gnosticism teaches. You cannot be a child of God and believe that Jesus was not God when He was on the cross because He was God when He was on the cross. He was God when He was in the tomb. Amen! You cannot be a Christian if you do not believe those things.

John wants these readers here and the people that are hearing him and listening to him to understand that there are things that they absolutely had to believe if they were a child of God, if they were going to go to heaven; there are some things that they have to believe. That has not changed any in the last 2,000 years.

That has not changed any at all. Man has changed. We have become more liberal. We have moved way to the left. Sin does not mean a whole lot to us anymore. We just want to say that is okay. If society is doing it, pastors are doing it, preachers are doing it, church people do it, the pope does it, and the president does it; well, it has to be alright.

Listen. That does not make it alright, no matter who does it. If it is wrong, then it is wrong. We need to understand that. If we are going to go to heaven then there is a test that we have to pass. When I say that—it is not a test that  $2 + 2 = 4$ . It is not that at all. Do you know what we can do? We can look at our lives and the main test we have to pass is that if we have faith in Jesus Christ then we can go to heaven. If we do not have faith in Jesus Christ then we cannot go. That is what John wants these folks to understand.

When I say having faith in Jesus Christ, I want to talk about that just a little bit further. In our world today, even among our Baptist people today, Baptist churches and all kinds of different churches, we have the idea that just because I believe and I say I believe then that is all we need to do. Well, I think we need to clarify that just a little bit because when we say we believe Jesus Christ, then our lives will prove what we believe. In other words, I will live; if I say I believe Jesus Christ then I am going to have some characteristics of a Christian. It is not going to make me perfect. I am not going to be without fault. I am not going to be that at all. However, there are going to be some things that I will not do and a lifestyle that I will have that this world will be able to see—I have got some fruits of being a Christian. It means more. Look what it says here.

1 John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

So, if you really believe—I am not talking about intellectually—if you truly believe that Jesus Christ, down in your heart, down in your soul, if you absolutely truly believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God then you have been born again. That borne you into the

family of God. We take on divine nature when that happens; if we honestly and sincerely believe that down in our hearts. You can talk to this world over today and the majority of the people will tell you, "I believe there is a God in heaven." However, when you talk to them about who that God really is and they have a different opinion who God is and what the Bible says who God is. Again, if we believe, if we believe, if our lives have been changed, if we have a new nature on the inside of us, if we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God then that changes us. All things are passed away and behold all things are become new. We take on divine nature. We are born-again. Get this. We become the children of Almighty God. We become part of the family of Almighty God.

Again, I say this a lot. I want us to understand that in our world today there is a teaching that everybody is the son of God. That is not right. All mankind is the creation of God. However, to be part of the family of God; you have to be born into the family of God. You have to be born-again... You have to be saved. You have to be changed if you are a part of God's family. Sure, we are all God's creation. God has created man. Absolutely. However, to be part of His family so that I can call God my Father then we have to be born into that. Born-again; that is what we have to be.

He says here, whosoever. It does not matter who it is. Get this. It does not matter who it is. It does not matter what color they are. It does not matter what nationality they are. It does not matter where they go to church. It does not matter what they call themselves. It does not matter if they may be Catholics, Nazarenes, or all kinds of different names; but if they truly believe that deep down in their soul that Jesus Christ is the Son of God then they are born again and then they are part of the family of God. That should excite all of us.

Listen. We do not have to belong to a certain creed, or denomination, or a certain communion to be able to go to heaven. Simply putting faith from our hearts, not our heads but our hearts, in Jesus Christ. When we do that then you know what happens; we are changed. Listen. When we take on divine nature, and it is more than just a head thing, it is a total commitment of us to Almighty God. It is a total life change. We totally commit ourselves to Jesus Christ. That is what believing Him does. Believing Him. Believing that He is the Son of God. Believing that when we commit ourselves to Him we are born again. We take on divine nature. We become a son of Almighty and we become part of the family of God and then we have hope.

Get this.

1 John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

Is it not amazing what happens when we believe from our hearts that Jesus is the Son of God? It may have been at an altar. It may have been in a garage. It may have been in a kitchen. It may have been traveling up and down the road. It may have been a lot of different places. However, when we truly believed that Jesus Christ is the Son of

God, we become a child of Almighty God. Our nature changes. The way we think changes. Also, do you know what we do? The Bible says here...

1 John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

Do you know what that means? That means when we get saved, when we believe Jesus Christ; then not only do I love God—amen!—but I also love them that has been begotten by Almighty God. Do you know what that means? That means I love people. We love people. When we have divine nature, when God's spirit has moved within us; thank God, we love everybody. Amen! I do not love people's ways. I do not love how people talk sometimes, their mannerisms, and all the sinful things they do. No. I do not love that part of them. Do you know what? I do not know anybody that I do not love. There is nobody that I do not love.

There are people who have lied to me about me. There have been people who have stolen from me. There have been people that have tried to kill me. I have been stabbed by some people. Yet, I do not hate anybody. Do you? If you do then you have issues in your relationship with Almighty God. Amen!

That is what changes us. That is what makes us different from every other club, from every other whatever we want to call it is that Christian people who have been born again, who has put faith in Almighty God, they have taken on the nature of God and since God is love then I have no problem loving Him and I have no problem loving people. Amen! If you do then you have issues. I do not care who you are. I do not care how long you say you have been a Christian; if you do not love everybody then you have some serious issues going on in here. You have some serious issues between you and God. If you love God then you will love God's people. Amen! If you pick out somebody that you do not love, and you would not spit on them if they were no fire; then I would suggest to you when you go home tonight to find a place to pray because you are not ready to go to heaven. Amen!

People that believe deep down in our soul that Jesus is the Christ; we are born of God and take on the divine nature. Not only do we love God, but also, we love Him that begot us or born us but we also love them that He has begotten. Isn't that awesome? Is not that something great that God does for us. it does not matter where they go to church. It does not matter. They may practice a lot different than we do. I may not accept that necessarily. I may not understand that necessarily. Amen! However, put all of that aside; do you love them? Your neighbors that steals your firewood. And your tomatoes when they get ripe. They throw their garbage in your garbage can. They steal your mail. Do you love them? Do you really love them? That is a pretty good thought do you not think? We love Him and also, we love them that He has begotten.

I have learned something over the years back when I first got saved and the Lord called me into the ministry. There were a lot of things that I thought I knew. As I started reading and praying and talking to the God of heaven; do you know what I found out? I

did not know near as much as I thought I knew. I knew and found out something else. I have said this many times to young people. Sometimes we want to cut people off. We want to cut people off and surely if that person is doing that then they cannot go to heaven.

Get this. I am going to explain this. Saved people are going to heaven. They may practice things I do not like. They may practice things that I do not understand; I am not talking about people living in sin. I am not talking about people that are committing immorality, drinking and stealing. I am not talking about that. I am talking about people that are born again that may practice things different than we practice things. Amen! Those people are going to go to heaven.

There was a time in my life that if they did not do what I thought then I thought surely, they were not going to go to heaven. Do you know what God taught me? That His grace goes a whole lot further than what I thought it could go. Not only that but also there are going to be a lot of people that is going to be in heaven that maybe sometime in my life, I would have like to have cut off. Are you not glad that we do not get to make that call? Are you not glad that somebody else does not get to make that call? The God of heaven gets to make that call. When we put faith in Him and live a life of faith then we are going to get to go one day.

But we have to believe that He is the Son of God. We have to love Him and love His people. That is a test. If you do not love people then you are not going. If you do not love people then you do not love Him. That is the way it is.

I know people snarl up their nose and get mad. They do all kinds of stuff. I am not responsible for what you do with the truth. I am responsible for telling you the truth. It is up to you what you do with it.

1 John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

Love and obedience. Not only do we love but we have a life of obedience. He says here by this we know that we love the children of God. When we love God; He has to be first. Love Him first and the second thing is that we keep His commandments. That is a test. Since we love God, if we are born again, we have divine nature. We love Him and we love His people. The reason we can tell that is because we keep His commandments. Are you obedient to God? Are you listening to the voice of God? Get this. I am going to be doing this in reverse. If we are obedient to God then you will never have any problem loving God's people. Amen! If you are obedient to God, living a life of obedience, okay? First you love Him but secondly, you will never have a problem living where that you love people. If you do not love people tonight then you are not living a life of obedience. ...that is what that says. I did not put that in the book. If we are living the life of obedience then we love people. If we are not keeping His commandments then we do not love Him and we do not love His people.

Jesus made the statement...“if you love me, keep my commandments.” Jesus made that statement. “If you love me, keep my commandments.” My love for people, proves that I love God. My love for God’s people and God and God’s people, proves who that I am. Amen! It proves who we are. I am not talking about an intellectual knowledge, or an intellectual love. I am talking about a love that is a sacrificial love that when you see people who are hurting that you want to help them. When you see people hurting, you hurt.

It is one thing to have a relationship or a love that...phileo love. The word *phileo* is in the Greek. It is a love that someone would have for a friend. It is one thing to have that kind of a love, but it is something else to have the agape love, or the sacrificial love, or the love of Almighty God, a love that gives, a love that will go beyond, a love that will give and keep on giving; that is the kind of love that Christian people have. Amen! When we have that kind of love then we prove we love God. A life of obedience, when I live a life of obedience; loving people is part of being obedient. Amen! That is part of obedience. That is the greatest thing about obedience. If you think you are going to get anywhere with God and not love people—man, you missed the boat somewhere. He came to the cross and died because He loved people. Amen! That was the reason He came to die and rescue us from a lake of fire. He loved us. God so loved the world—you and I, us. Not cosmos. Not the evil system that is around us, but God loved people. Amen! Jesus came. Jesus gave. Jesus sacrificed. He gave it all. Amen!

He did not have a house. He did not have anywhere to call home. The thirty-three years or so He was here; I know He stayed with dad and mom, His parents in Nazareth up the road. We know He spent some time there. We know He spent some time in Egypt. However, He had nothing He could call His own. Yet, He was the One who created it all. There was nothing He could point to while He was here and when He walked through Nazareth and when He walked through Nain, or when He walked through Capernaum or any of those cities; He could not point and say, that is my house, or that is my mule, or that is my buggy. He could not point to anything.

Luke 9:58 And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.

Matthew 8:20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.

Yet He loved us. He was obedient. Listen. Love and obedience; He was obedient—to what? —to His Father’s will. He came. He gave. He was obedient. He loved. He was obedient.

1 John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

Another test is this. If you do not love God's people, then you are not living a life of obedience, then you do not love God. You cannot love God's people, if you do not love God. Amen! God's people has His divine nature.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Get this. Here is a wonderful verse.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Get that. Do you see what that says? "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments..." Again, since we love God, we will keep His commandments. There is something that happens to us when we get saved. I know we have divine nature, but there is something that changes on the inside. We know our nature changes. However, the way we think changes. What we want to do changes. Before I got saved, and before you got saved; we did not care anything about keeping the commandments of God. We did not care about being faithful to God. Did you? No.

You did not care. You sinned. You loved sin. You loved to live in sin. You loved darkness. Amen! You did it and you enjoyed it. We all did. We had no desire to please God. However, something changed. He makes this statement.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Do you know what it is? There is something about keeping God's commandments—get this—that Christian people love. That is what that says. There is something about keeping the commandments of Almighty God that we love. Does everybody get that?

He says "his commandments are not grievous." When you look at the word *grievous* you will automatically think that He is talking about something that is hard, something that is difficult but it is not. The word when you look at it brings out the idea of this.

If we walk up and tell a mother that has just born a child—the day that she has waited on for nine months—and we walk up and tell her, take good care of that baby. Do you know what that mother is already going to do, whether I tell her to or not? She is going to take care of that baby. She is going to be doing something that she wants to do. A loving mother, who loves her child is going to be taking good care of her child. That is something that she wants to do.

Get this. Keeping God's commandments is something that a Christian, who is living in the will of God, wants to do. We enjoy doing that. I enjoy living a life of faith. Amen! Don't you? I enjoy living right. I enjoy living in a way that when I get on my face before Almighty God, I can talk to Him, and He will talk to me. His presence will flood my soul. I like living like that. Amen! Don't you? If you do not know what that is about then you may want to examine where you are at. There may be some grudges. There may be

some places that you do not love like you say you love. There may be some hidden sin somewhere deep down in here that you need the gospel to dig out. Listen. When you live right, when you live as you should live, and live a life of faith, read your Bible and pray; I promise you God will meet with you. Whether it is at your house, at church, or when you are driving down the road.

Back when I was a young Christian—I may have been working construction or in the coal mines somewhere, I do not remember. However, I would get up early in the morning and do what I needed to do before I left home and I would start down the road. I would start down the road praying. I would not get a mile down the road and I would get the hiccups. I would quit praying. So, I would go on to work. Come home and do what I needed to do. Read my Bible and go to bed. The next morning, I would get up and start down the road again. I would get the hiccups and I would quit praying. It took me a week or two to figure out the enemy did not want me to pray. Amen! The hiccups would come and do you know what I would do? I would pray anyway. It was not a day or two doing that I did not have hiccups anymore.

Do you know what I found in life? I mean this guys. The greatest thing that you will ever do for yourself, or for your husband, your wife or your children; the greatest thing you will ever do is get alone with God, talk to God, pray to God, and seek God's face, read God's word, and live a life of obedience to Him; that is the greatest thing you will ever do for your children, your grandchildren, your husband, or your wife.

I have said this many times. ...many years ago, I thought my kids needed hundred-dollar shoes more than they needed me. I thought they needed stuff more than they needed me. I worked a lot of hours and was gone a lot. I was gone here and there for many, many years. We lost a lot of time there. Really what they needed more than stuff was me. They needed me. Amen! Your children more than they need a new car; they need you. They need you to be faithful to God. They need you to be faithful to God, to read your Bible, to study your Bible and live and be an example before them. They need you to be faithful to God. More than money, more than cars, more than stuff, more than new clothes, more than the latest phone or gadget; more than that they need you to be faithful to God.

Here is what is going to happen, if you live long enough, you are going to get old. They are going to grow up. They are going to leave home, or at least you hope they do. It seems like when you marry them off sometimes, you just marry them in—just kidding. I love my family. I love my children, my grandchildren, my sons-in-law. I am blessed. However, sometime...we are going to get old and they move away. You want to instill in them today while you have time today, there is no other time like today, to instill in them the truth. This is what a life of faith is all about. This is what communicating with God is all about. This is what talking to God is all about. This is what you do when issues come. When this happens in life and your heart gets broken. When you lose this or this happens, or things do not go the way you think they should go; here is what you need to do is talk to God, not blow up. Do not have a get back attitude about it.

here is what you need to do is talk to God. If we do that, then our children and grandchildren will have respect for us. I hope that you do. I hope you live in a way...do not promote sin in their life. Do not help them to sin. They do not need any help to do that. They will do that all by themselves. Promote godliness in their life. Help them to live right.

His commandments are not grievous. His commandments here are not hard for us at all. His commandments here are something that we enjoy doing. We enjoy living a life of faith.

Listen. Living a life of faith is the best life to live. Being obedient to the word of God, God's commandments, God's statutes, and God's judgements is the best life that you can live. There is nothing like that. There is absolutely nothing like living a right kind of a life. Again, we do that because we love Him. Listen. We get to be obedient to Him and to do His commandments because that is something we want to do. This is what our Father says for us to do and we do that because we enjoy doing that. Truth!

I do not come to church because I have to. Do you? There was not anyone to beat you to get you here tonight. No. If you read your Bible today and spend some time praying before you go to bed tonight it is because you choose to do that. If you choose to do that in the morning, get up and spend some time praying and reading your Bible then somewhere down through the day tomorrow; it is because you choose to do that. If God speaks, and when God speaks to you and says hey, you need to take this trip, you need to go here, you need to do this, you need to turn left instead of turning right. You need to let that alone. You do not need to be doing that. Then when we will live a life of obedience to that He will bless us. He will help us. Amen! It is not hard.

Transgression is hard. The life of obedience is not hard. Do you know what we do? we make it hard by this. We make it hard because we do not read our Bibles. We make it hard because we do not pray. We make it hard because we are not obedient to God.

Anytime I hear people say, "It's a hard life," and we have issues. I have all kinds of issues in life. However, a life of faith is not hard. Life is hard but a life of faith is not hard. We make it hard because we do not read, study, or pray. We do not live a life of obedience to Him. We do not do things that He wants us to do.

I want to tell you this. He says this...

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

There is a system that is all around us. There is a worldly system that is all around us everywhere we go, everywhere we stop, every restaurant that we go in, every school that we are at, every place that we go; on our jobs, there is a system of temptation that is around us that is trying to draw us away from Almighty God. Everywhere we go. Everywhere we are at it is there. The temptation is there to draw us away from God.

The Bible says here that I read to you...

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

1 John 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Do you know what overcomes the world? Do you know what helps us, gets us, promotes us, and gives us the strength to be able to stand against all the temptations when they come? They are going to bombard you and they are going to bombard me on every side, from every hand, in front of us and behind us, everywhere you go there is going to be a force that is trying to drawl us away, trying to get us to sin, trying to get us to do things that are not right.

What will overcome that—get this—there is only one thing that will overcome that and give us the victory over that and that is faith in Jesus Christ. Nothing else. Faith in Him will give us the power we need to be able to live in this life and overcome all the temptation that comes our way. It will be there. It will be in your head. It will get in your head. Sometimes it gets in your heart. Sometimes it lives with you. Sometimes you see it everywhere.

Listen. Faith in Jesus Christ will overcome the world. All the temptation, all the drawling, everything that is out there that is trying to get us to sin; when we put our faith in Jesus Christ, we will overcome the world and we will be victorious. Hallelujah!

Come and pray—