



Sermon
CH (1LT) Lang Yang

"Conquering the New Year"

The Baptism of Our Lord
US Army Reserve – 785th MP BN
1-9-2022

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

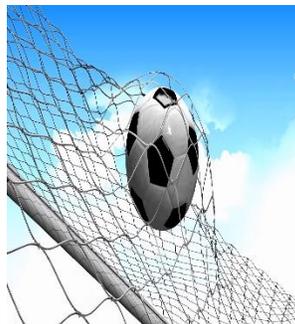
Romans 8:31; 37, "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." (NIV). This is the Word of God. (Cross-reference – 1 Kings 8:57, 2 Kings 6:16, 1 Chronicles 5:22, Psalm 56:9; 11:86, Isaiah 8:10; 41:10, John 16:33, Romans 8:35, 1 Corinthians 15:57, Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 5:2, Revelation 1:5).

Illustration "Conquer"

(Show conquer the new year)



Once again, we look forward to another year. Or do we? Maybe we feel that this last year has conquered us, and we don't feel good about it. Or perhaps we think that the coming year looks so formidable that there is no chance to conquer the difficulties it will bring. It may appear very threatening to us. But here we are. We have finished one year and are ready to begin another, and if we do not conquer the challenges it will have for us, it will surely conquer us. (Show soccer/goal)



The word "CONQUER" is a big word for us to understand. It simply means "to be victorious or win, to defeat or subdue by force, especially by force of arms, and to gain or secure control of by or as if by force." When I was in the 5th grade, I played as a center forward in the district soccer league and scored 52 goals for that year. We have won every game, including the championship. It shows that our team "the striker" is the best because we have conquered every team we play. (Show assorted award)

I. Some of you have won a trophy, certificate, ribbons, medals, and other prestigious awards in your life.



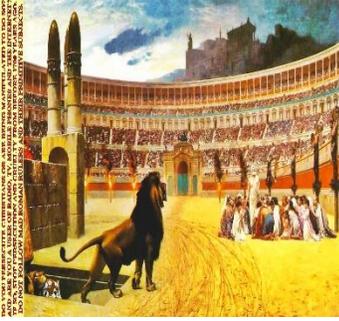
Some of you students have won science projects or athletic competitions. Some of your parents have won employee of the month. When you are being recognized for this achievement, you are well, please. Because of your ability, you have conquered specific aspects of your life.

(Show Romans 8:37)

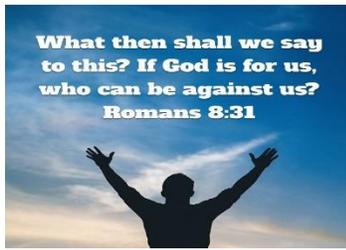


The Apostle Paul talked about being a conqueror is like a champion in our lesson. Being Christian is like being a champion that you have conquered an opponent. The opponent is sin, death, and the devil. Some of us are still confused and might ask, how are we still being persecuted for our faith? That is the sin of the world that tempted us to do the wrong thing, while the world says it is Ok when we say it is not Ok. Why does the world still have war, famine, disease, and other terrible things that still happen all

around us every day? Why can't we conquer all these things and have peace and prosperity?
(Show Christian being thrown into an arena for the lion to devour)



Brothers and sisters in Christ, when we look at all these problems, we still can't understand how they can be conquering? We not only see in our time but look at the Christian in Rome during the time of the Apostle Paul. They also felt like they were the loser for being a Christian. Even though the Roman government allowed the Christians to worship the Triune God, but they will also have to worship Caesar. When the Christians refused to worship Caesar, they were thrown to the lion, put in prison, executed, and burned alive. How could the Christians have conquered anything if they were being persecuted? They are hopeless. (Show Romans 8:31)

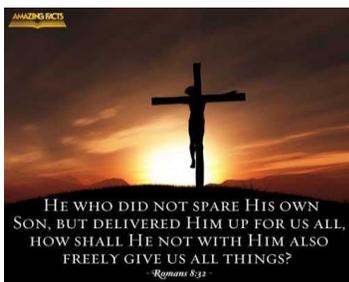


But here is the good news. The Apostle Paul encourages then and us today that we are to remain and be faithful to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ no matter what happens. He said, "If God is for us, who can be against us" (Romans 8:31.) Not only the world is against us, but especially those closes to us are against us. Who do we turn to? We need to turn to God. Only him will be on your side because if God is for you, who can be against you. No one can't conqueror you.

II. If we know this, apply this, we are on our way toward conquering whatever may come in the new year. God is for us. (Show Isaiah 41:10)



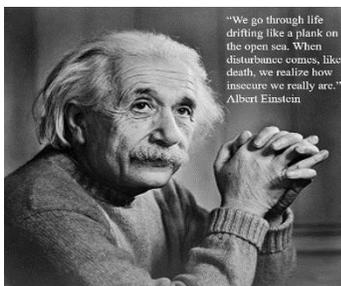
He makes that promise to us in Paul's letter to the Romans, just as he promised Joshua after the death of Moses. God said, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9). The prophet Isaiah assured His people, "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismay, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10). (Show Romans 8:32)



God proved this to us when Paul writes, "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:32). We can conquer the new year brings because God is for us, as He proved by sending His Son Jesus, to suffer and die for our sins and to rise again for our justification. He applies this work to our credit, and He intends this coming year to be good for us. He fully intends for us to conquer its trials and challenges. If we didn't conquer what the year brought, if it has conquered us, then He

Forgive us for this failure and urge us into another year that we can handle because He is with us.

Albert Einstein wrote to the grief-stricken wife of one of his friends: (Show Albert Einstein)



"We go through life drifting like a plank on the open sea. When disturbance comes, like death, we realize how insecure we really are." Perhaps this past year has been such a year for some of us. Maybe disturbances and troubles have upset us. Or perhaps there have been happy days, good days, golden days, but they were ruined because we did not see

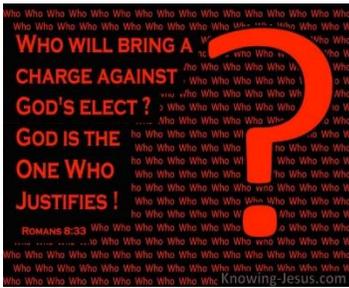
how everything fit together, so they had no meaning. What difference it makes to know that God is for us, that He sent His Son and did not spare Him! We can know beyond a doubt that He is for us. Knowing that He is for us helps us see how everything fits into His plan for us.

III. A three-year-old child was attending a birthday party for a friend and wandered away and fell into a well for some unknown reason. (Show dog saves drowning boy)



Amazingly, a large, shaggy puppy, eight months old, jumped into the well and held the child up until the adults could rescue the child. It was a miracle, everybody said. We are the recipients of an even more tremendous blessing. Jesus jumped into this world to save us. We were drowning in our sins and miseries, and Jesus jumped in and saved us, doing it all Himself and losing His own life in the process. Through His death and resurrection, He has lifted us out of the well of sin and given us life. So, we can live victoriously. We can conquer life's problems; they

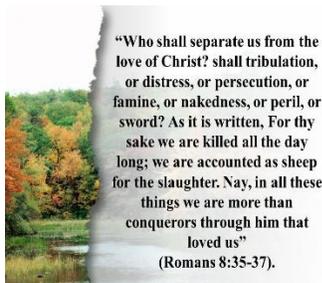
will not conquer us. With God and Savior like that, the new year will not conquer us, and we will conquer whatever it brings. (Show who?)



We are children of God. No one can condemn us. "Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is her that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us." (Romans 8:33-34) God has the last word. The Word is His Son. What Jesus has done for us eliminates any condemnation, no matter what we have done. The Scripture is clear. Maybe the past year has been a good one, and we feel pretty good about it. But even so, we made plenty of

mistakes. Maybe the past year was terrible, and we are not at all proud of our performance. Only if we could do it over. Brother and sister in Christ, there is hope. Although the year is gone, and we can't do it over, the good news is that we are not condemned for any sins and mistakes. Jesus has already been condemned for the world. He paid the price for our sins, and God declares them "Paid for in full," which settles it. In God's court – and that's the one that counts – no one can stand up and condemn us for one single misdeed. God has declared us forgiven for Jesus' sake. When we believe it, we can move into the future with confidence.

It is certainly enough to worry about in the new year. If we think about all the things that can conquer us, we can become quite immobilized. (Show Romans 8:35-37)



But regardless of what will be in front of us, God's word reminds us, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." (Romans 8:35-37). We must

not lose sight of what is possible if we wish to conquer whatever this coming year holds in store for us. People who don't look like conquerors can conquer. (Show assorted pictures)



A woman paralyzed from the neck down paints with a brush in her mouth. A mother born without arms uses her feet to shop, write, and cook for her family. A young man paralyzed by a football injury uses his disability to begin a drive for research into ways to undo the lasting effects of paralysis.

(Show Romans 8:37)

No, in all these things
we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.
Romans 8:37



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People who do not look like conquerors can conquer. We can conquer whatever comes to us and use it for our eternal welfare with Christ's power. So, the Christian can regard the world's things as conquerors to spiritual health and wholeness. We can conquer with God's power. Amen.

Now may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.