



Sermon – August 18, 2019
Chris Osborne

Verses Covered

Ephesians 4:27

1 John 2:12 - 13

So we are in Ephesians. Where's my wife? Stand up, please. So today is our 45th wedding anniversary. She's so thrilled. And then today, my son is preaching at First Baptist Gholson. So I, so we may just have to take Chris off the sign out there. Keep Osborne and put him in here. I love college football. It's around the corner. I hate professional football. Way too many thugs for me. I love college football. Love A&M. Love Alabama. Alabama had the worst moment in the history of my life as a fan a few years back. Even when we lost to Notre Dame in the 70s to Ara Parseghian in the Orange Bowl because we had the wishbone offense that couldn't win. But at any rate, it wasn't as bad as this moment. We're playing Auburn, whom obviously we hate. So we're playing Auburn, it's tied, Saban calls a time out, there's a second left on the clock. So he decides to try a field goal. Now if you know anything about Alabama football in the last ten years, you do not want the game to come down to a field goal. We do not have anybody that can do that. And sure enough. So he put all the big guys in the game and tried the kick. Of course it didn't make it. And Auburn had this really fast guy who caught the ball, oh it just hurts to repeat this, and ran all the way back to score the winning touchdown. That added ten more minutes to the sermon right there. So I am just standing like this at the TV. I'm crushed. Because what we did is we made it easy for Auburn because they couldn't win any other way. We made it easy for them because we didn't have any fast guys. Now I guarantee you, if we play Auburn again and it comes down to that moment and Saban calls a timeout and he's got a second on the clock, you know what he's going to do. He's going to put two fast guys back there waiting because our field goal kick is not going to make it. We made it easy for them to win.

Now that is exactly what Paul is addressing in the passage today. Now if you remember last week, we looked at the fact the text says, keep on being angry, but don't sin. Don't let the sun go down on your wrath; a quote from Psalm 4:4. We looked back at that and the fact that we're to have God's disposition. That He created us, the highest created being He has, so that we have the ability to reflect His glory. Greater than anything, and He loves us so intensely and wants us to reflect that glory, there's an anger when that glory is besmirched by us instead of honored by us. And so he says we should have that disposition. And then following that, in 4:27, low listen to what he says. Ephesians 4. He says:

²⁷neither give place to the devil.

He says, “Look, whatever you do, don’t make it easy for your enemy.” Don’t make it where it’s an easy thing for him to take you down. Make it hard. Now there are couple things we have to process here. Our culture, and unfortunately a lot of us in the church, view the idea of Satan, the devil, as tooth fairy, Santa Claus, kind of a myth, you’ve got to be kidding me, nobody really believes that anymore thing. But the Bible takes a very firm view that you have an enemy. As a matter of fact, Jesus, over a forty-day period, talked with him. Over a forty-day period Satan came and offered Him three different temptations. He knew exactly where to hit Jesus, when to hit Jesus. He offered Him those temptations and He and Jesus had a conversation. Now either Satan’s real or our Lord was hallucinating. If He was hallucinating, He’s not our Lord. So you have to, when you read this book, come out with the assumption that there really is an enemy and Jesus and he spoke. That enemy has one agenda now. His first agenda was overthrow God. Lost that. He’s still going to try that, but the Bible says, he knows that his time is short and he’s come down with great wrath. 1 Peter 5:8 says, he prowls around looking for someone to devour. So his agenda is to take you in this room, he’s got really two agendas. To take the people outside this room and keep them from being in this room through Jesus Christ. And then the other thing he wants to do is take those of you in this room and prevent the glory of God from maximizing itself in your life. Now that’s his agenda. And he’s there.

You need to know a couple of things. He’s real. He’s not like the deviled ham picture with the pitchfork and the red suit and the crazy stuff. The Bible says, it’s a metaphor, but it says that every precious stone was his cover. In other words, other than those of us in God’s image, the most beautiful being God ever created was Satan. Which, by the way, explains part of his appeal to Eve. Because when he showed up in the garden he didn’t have a pitchfork and tail, he’s handsome, winsome, articulate, smooth. And she looks at him and his very presence because of his beauty made him appealing. He’s not going to be unappealing to you. He is appealing. And he’s powerful. The archangel of God in the book of Jude, it says, the archangel of God and Satan were disputing over the body of Moses. Satan wanted it so he could get the body, remember we don’t know where it’s buried. He wanted it to put it up so he’d get Israel to worship the body instead of the Father. It says in the book of Jude that Michael, the archangel of God, did not dare to bring an accusation against him. He simply said, “The Lord rebuke you.” If you have the archangel of God that doesn’t even mess with him, then do not think you can. He’s smarter than you are. He knows the Bible in every language it was written. He knows every single verse. He knows exactly what’s going on. He knows your life. He knows how to hit you. He knows exactly what to do. So understand you face a being that’s smarter than you are, that’s tougher than you are, whose sole agenda now is to keep you out of this room, or if you’re in this room, to make sure that the glory of God does not show up visibly in your life. So we face a being who’s legitimate.

Now here’s what he says. Do not give him a place in your life. Now I want you to understand part of what that means. I want you to go over to 1 John with me. 1, 2 Peter. 1, 2, 3 John. Go to 1 John. We’re going to read in chapter 2. But I want you to read what he writes. An intriguing thing. 1 John 2 beginning in verse 12. Now listen to what he writes.

¹²I'm writing you, children, because your sin have been forgiven because of His name.
¹³I'm writing to you, fathers, because you have known the One who is from the beginning.
And I'm writing to you, young men, because you have conquered the evil one.

And then he repeats this by simply changing the Greek tense to make a particular point. But that's really his statement. He says three things about us in this room. Our sins have been forgiven, therefore we know the Father experientially and personally. And that being who's against us, who's smarter than us, tougher than us, knows the Bible better than us, has already been conquered in our life. So how is it that he gets us to miserably fail? I did a funeral yesterday at the seminary for one of the faculty. Great man. He did it right as a husband, as a dad, as a prof, and as a man. Finished well. I don't see that much anymore. Instead I see people packing out of the ministry. I see people failing and blemishing. And the reason when the Bible says that he's conquered in our life, the reason he's able to get to us is because, now listen, we give him place. We give him the chance. He can't win in the life of a believer who does not give him a place in their life. So how to you give him a place? Now it's when you ignore what's in here. When you don't stand on this and you don't believe this, and you don't trust this, and you don't base your life on this, you give him a place every single place that you disagree with what this says. I don't want him to take you down. I don't want him to prevent you from doing what God wants you to do. And that's the two ways he takes you down. He either stops you from representing God's glory or he puts you in a place where you damage God's glory.

Even when it's coming from a good source. You don't ever disagree with what that says. There's a new movie coming out called The Overcomer. It's a movie produced by a group of great Godly people. They produced three other movies: Facing the Giants, War Room, I can never remember the name of the second one. But it's about a guy, huh? What is it? Fireproof. Thanks Leanne. Fireproof. Now they have a new one coming out, Overcomer. Really pretty good acting. We're generally not good in that area. But the acting's pretty good. Plots are good. Good stories. But just one danger point. When you watch the movie Facing the Giants, he struggles with who he is in Christ, as coach. And then at the end, he comes back to Christ and he's right with Jesus. Closing credits have he wins two state football championships. Fireproof, the guy absolutely decimates his marriage. But then he loves her for 30 days and gets her back. In The War Room, they pray hard and their prayers conquer all. So I don't know what the ending will be to The Overcomer but it's about a young girl trying to find her identity in Christ. And my bet is that what you're going to discover, she's a runner, is that at the end of the movie she's going to win the race. That's the problem. It doesn't always work out because you love Jesus. Now listen to me. Propositional truth from the Scripture is always true. It's never only true part of the time. And the idea that if you love Jesus everything's going to be OK in your life may be true for some of you, but it won't be for others of you.

Who are the three guys, Jesus' top 3 boys among the disciples? Who are the ones that saw everything the others didn't? Peter, James, and John. Now if you're John, all that theology works well. He's exiled for a little bit, but he dies peacefully in his nineties. Writes four books. We just read part of it. The most spiritual gospel of the four. The book that no preacher in America understands, Revelation. I'm going to ask him about that when I get there. But he dies in his nineties peacefully. Worked out for him. Peter; it doesn't. Number one, he has the hardest ministry of all the apostles. Because he's the apostle to the Jews who reject everything he says

about Jesus. You say, "Well there were 3,000 people saved the first Sunday he preached." That's exactly right. The first message he preached there were 3,000 people saved. But they were mainly from out of town. They all left. The Jewish Christianity did not grow. He was God's messenger to a people that will reject him. But God's simply saying, "I am not going to leave you without a witness even though I know you're going to say no to me." He will die at the hand of Nero two years before Titus will come into Jerusalem and destroy the temple and the city. He will die with Paul. So you might say, "It kind of worked out a little for him." Then you have James. One of the three. Christianity has just started when Herod kills him. Kills him. He takes Peter and puts him in the prison and overnight an angel comes, wakes Peter up, walks him out of the jail. So if you're James' widow, right, you watch these four films that if you live for Jesus, everything works out well. And Peter's wife still has a husband and you don't. Then you're going to look at these movies and go, wait a minute it didn't work out that way. You see what the Bible says is you don't ever worry about the outcome of your faith in Jesus Christ. That's His problem. Your problem is to just show off His glory. Because the outcome's going to be different for everybody. As a matter of fact, Peter and John were standing there after the resurrection and Jesus looked at Peter and he said, "Listen, they're going to take you where you don't want to go when you die." And Peter, being Peter, he looked over at John and said, "What about him? Is he going to have a hard life too?" And that's when Jesus said, "It's not your problem. If I want him to stay alive until I come, that's not your problem." You never base who you are in Jesus Christ on the outcome you desire. You simply show off His glory and you let Him worry about the outcome.

We have a ton of Christians, high school coaches who have never sniffed a state championship. We have a bunch of Christian college coaches who have never won a national championship. We have businessmen who as Christians are in the Fortune 500. We have other businessmen who as Christians they can barely put food on their table. Do not ever, ever, ever judge your outcome by anything other than the cause of Jesus Christ. Good people making the movies. But a dangerous precedent. Don't give him a place where he can discourage who you are in Christ.

And number two, don't let him put you in a place where he takes away from you who you could be in Christ. Now emotions play a part in Christianity. But they're not to be the driving force in your life. You don't live by what you feel. You live by what that says. Now this is critical. Because I fear in this day we've got people that graduate and leave and go somewhere else and their feelings prevent them from going to the church God has for their life. My first church, Oakwood, 30, small little sanctuary, all wood stage, stage. My minister of music is 86 years old. He's never been married. The pianist is his sister, Miss Maddie. She's 87 years old. She's never been married. They live with their sister who is 88 years' old who doesn't come to the church. He's my music guy. So the first Sunday I'm there, now if you know anything about a rural, East Texas, very small church, if you know anything at all, if you're the pastor, there's some point in the program where you have to do the Pastoral Prayer. You have to stand up and you have to pray for a while. So I start the first Sunday Pastoral Prayer. We had no carpet on the stage. I'm in the middle of my prayer and I hear a shuffling coming behind me. Now if you're a pastor, you're always worried when someone's behind you anyway. So I hear this shuffling and I'm trying to pray and I hear the shuffling and it goes past me and I want to look up, but that would be unholy. So I hear, because he can't hear, so he says, "Miss Maddie what's the next hymn." So Miss Maddie tells him, "87." So he shuffles back over, and at this point now, I'm wondering, am I still praying or am I totally lost here? He was my worship guy. His sister was the pianist. Not a college student

in the world today that would attend that church because it won't provide the feeling and the style of worship they want. When, in fact, if that had been my take, I would have missed some of the richest things in my life. His name's J. D. Guess. And J. D. and I would sit down periodically. Always same story pretty much. But he told me about being saved at a Brush Arbor Revival. Hearing the Holy Spirit speak to him. Every single time tears in his eyes. Every time. I'd have missed that. I'd have missed the 90-year-old lady, Ms. Campbell. We had Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. The sanctuary was upstairs. Every single Sunday, Wednesday, Sunday night, ever time, ice, hot, didn't matter. She was bounding up those steps with her Bible open on the front row sitting there waiting to hear something. Which if you're a young pastor out of seminary, you realize she has read the Bible longer than I had been alive. So you're terrified because you're trying to figure out to say something to her she doesn't know. But she didn't care. She just loved Jesus so anything out of this book touched her heart. Would have missed the chance, started a little RA program which is Royal Ambassadors, an old Southern Baptist program, I had eight little guys. None of them came to the church. Eight little guys coming every Sunday night. Mothers let them come. Poured the word into them. On Tuesday nights my wife and I hosted a youth Bible study. We had 14 to 15 kids, only one of which went to our church, who came with the chance to play volleyball or softball, had the chance to pour the gospel into those kids. All of which most of us today would miss because we're not going to the church where a man shuffles across the stage and in the middle of the service asks for the hymn number because that's not trendy and cool, but you miss all that Jesus Christ has for you. So don't let him win. Don't give him a place. You lock down on everything in here so that he can't take you down and instead you hurt him. Because every little boy that heard that gospel killed him. Every youth that heard that gospel killed him. Every person that heard the truth, it killed him. It breaks him down when we are not conquered by him. Listen, he's conquered by us. That is the beauty of who you are in Jesus Christ.

Let's pray.

Father, burn in us through your Holy Spirit that this book and everything in it is to drive who we are. Make that real in our life so he doesn't win over us. Instead we win over him. Thank You because You said in here, we are more than conquerors. Let that be true in every home in every life in this room. In Jesus Christ's name.