



International Bible Lesson

International Bible Study Commentary
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Jesus Has Conquered the World John 16:23-33

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world (John 16:33—KJV).

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world (John 16:33—NASB).

I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world! (John 16:33—NRSV).

Because Jesus Christ conquered the world, His disciples believe He came from God and they love Him. When they remember that Jesus Christ conquered the world, they maintain their joy and peace in a dangerous and uncertain world. The world did its worst to Jesus, but Jesus conquered the world when He rose from the dead. After Jesus conquered the world, He ascended into heaven, and through the indwelling Holy Spirit Jesus lives within every disciple throughout the world. From their study of the Bible and daily experiences, Jesus' disciples know that no one can take away the joy, love, and peace that the indwelling Holy Spirit gives them. Furthermore, in and through His disciples, Jesus Christ lives and reigns throughout the world; therefore, when persecuted and killed His disciples "take courage" as He commanded. Just as Jesus prophesied, many remain amazed that the world still hates Jesus and His disciples instead of forgetting about Jesus and ignoring His followers! Yet, because Jesus conquered the world, many people around the world still come to believe that Jesus came from God and they love Jesus too. They experience the complete joy and love of

God the Father, the most loving, powerful, and wealthy person to exist. They understand that nothing can separate them from the love of God. If they are "killed all day long," Paul's words in Romans 8:36-37, encourage them: "In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us;" therefore, they courageously remain, "strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power" (Ephesians 6:10).

Thinking Further

1. Can believers in Jesus Christ pray to the Father? Why or why not?
2. In what two ways did Jesus speak to His disciples? Did they easily understand both ways? Why or why not?
3. Why did the disciples say they believed Jesus came from God?
4. What did Jesus foretell the disciples that they would do? What did Jesus say the disciples would face in the world?
5. Why did Jesus say what He did to His disciples? What did Jesus tell His disciples to do and what reason did He give them for doing this?