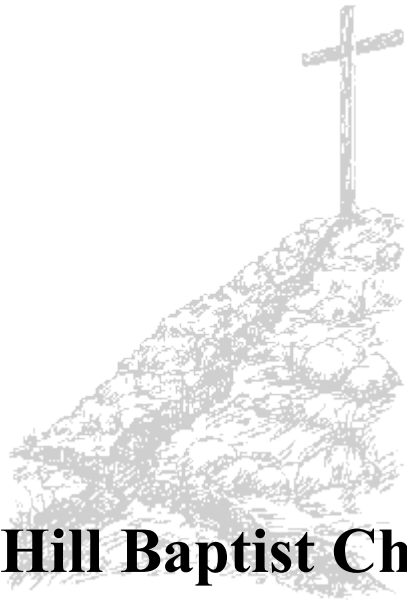


# These Things

John 16:33



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**John 16:33 (KJV) "These things I have spoken<sup>2</sup> unto you, that in me ye might have<sup>3</sup> peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation<sup>4</sup>: but be of good cheer; I have overcome<sup>1</sup> the world."**

Have you ever noticed that humans will overlook great treasures, yet will seek diligently those things which mean the least. Like children, we often toss away the Christmas present in order to cherish the box the present came in. Many are the Christians who watch the clock lest the pastor preach one moment longer than scheduled ... yet how often has God given great truths to His people after the bell of dismissal has rung. I noticed busy people walking quickly down the sidewalk step over a dollar bill, never noticing that it was there, so focused were they on reaching that next all important appointment with the television. We have been told by those who study geology that gold is often found in something called *rotten quartz*, something that looks like clumps of dirt. Unless one is trained in geology, the average person will step on or mow over something that looks like dirt - but really contains riches beyond measure. So it is with God's Word. We often read a text, take it lightly, then move on without further thought. God the Holy Spirit put this text on my heart as something that the children of God greatly need. Even as I say this, I confess that - unless God draw the gold from this Rock - then I shall toss away riches beyond measure. May God Bless us as we study this text together and may His precious Spirit be honored in its exposition.

**Introduction: The Tenses of this Text**

Before preaching this precious Word, we must examine the *tenses* of the text. I have read several sermons that dealt with this text by good and Godly men, anointed men, pastors and shepherds, who failed to grasp the gold from this text. A light reading of the text would cause us to equate what Jesus said with His Cross. In fact, this is where many pastors expounded this verse. They said that Jesus was referring to the Cross when He said:

### **I have overcome<sup>1</sup> the world**

But *this cannot be*. Jesus Christ, though Eternal God among us, (**Matthew 2:2, 8-10; 8:2-3; 9:18-19; 14:33; 15:25-28; 28:9, 17-18 - Christ was worshiped and received this worship!**) the great I AM (**John 8:58**), He nonetheless walked among humanity of no reputation (**Philippians 2:7**). In other words, Eternal God took on humanity and walked among us. As the Son of Man He subjected Himself to the *limitations of time*, just as we are limited to time. Understand this: When Jesus said

### **I have overcome<sup>1</sup> the world**

He spoke in *past tense*, at least, according to the King James. The English rendering (**have overcome**<sup>1</sup>) is actually the Greek verb **nikao**<sup>1</sup> {pronounced nik-ah'-o}, which is in the *perfect tense*. The Greek *perfect tense* shows an action that is *completed in past time once and for all*, an action that does not need to be repeated. In other words, when Jesus said "**I have overcome the world with the result that I continue to have victory over the world**" He could not have been referring to His Cross. The Cross was yet to come, Jesus was yet to be

crucified.

What about the other tenses of this verse? Jesus said:

### **These things I have spoken<sup>2</sup> unto you**

Here we again see a *perfect tense* of a Greek verb (laleo {pronounced lal-eh'-o}<sup>2</sup>), which means "**I have spoken in the past with the result that I need not say it again**". In the phrase:

### **that in me ye might have<sup>3</sup> peace**

We see the *Present Active Subjunctive* of the verb **echo**<sup>3</sup> {pronounced ekh'-o}, which means "**to have and to hold**" peace. The *Subjunctive Mood* in the Greek emphasizes the fact that having peace with God is *conditional* upon your acceptance of what Jesus said. Not "**you will have**" peace, but "**if you pay attention, you will have peace**". Finally, look at:

### **In the world ye shall have<sup>4</sup> tribulation**

This is *again* the verb **echo** {pronounced ekh'-o} that we saw above<sup>3</sup>, but this time it is in the *Present Active Indicative*, which is *durative* - you will keep on having tribulation. Now that we have looked at all these *tenses*, let's do what the *miner* would do. Let's take this verse, and with the *Fire of God* His Precious Spirit let's get the gold out of this text.

**1. First, The Bad News: You Will Keep On Having Tribulation**

Jesus said:

**John 16:33 (KJV) "These things I have spoken<sup>2</sup> unto you, that in me ye might have<sup>3</sup> peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation<sup>4</sup>: but be of good cheer; I have overcome<sup>1</sup> the world."**

Now focus on these words:

**In the world ye shall have tribulation<sup>4</sup>**

or as we mentioned earlier, looking at the Greek tense of our Lord's Words, "**while you are in this world you shall keep on having tribulations**". Now I know many preachers who will tell me that this is not the type of sermon you want to preach if you want people to keep coming back to your Church. They will tell me that I need to preach *smiley, pretty messages* all aglow with ease and comfort. Yet I would rather *live in a clubhouse built on the Rock of Christ's Word, than live in a castle built on the sand of men's words*. Jesus wants you to know this, Beloved - you WILL keep on HAVING tribulations! No matter how comfortable you are right now, you will have trials and tribulations. Now listen: this is not God's fault! You have trials and tribulations, and will *keep on* having them while you live in this world for several very true reasons.

a. First, because Satan, that old fallen angel, desires to curse you and all that you love. The devil wants your soul. He wants you smiling, lacking, lazy about your faith, tolerant about other *religions*, ignorant about the

Word of Christ, sloppy in the way that you present Christ to your children. The Bible says:

**2 Corinthians 4:2-4 (KJV) "But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. {3} But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: {4} In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."**

Our Gospel, the Gospel of salvation, is **hid** to the lost. The **god of this world**, Satan, does not want anyone to see this Gospel, nor to see that the power in the Gospel is **Jesus Christ**. You will keep on having tribulation because the devil wants your eyes on *anything* but Christ, and he will do *anything* to keep you ignorant of the power of God. He will go to *any extreme* to cause your children, your husbands, your wives to be lost. He will offer any number of forms of entertainment to cause you to *think lightly of Christ*, to laugh at the cursing of His name, to merge your faith with *yoga, mantras, voodooism, or some other form of idolatry*. He will have you branded as *intolerant* and *unloving* if you do not band with the world and moderate your beliefs to match everyone else's.

b. Second, you will have tribulations because *the world itself is lost*. When you walk in unity with Christ, you naturally walk in *disunity* with the world. Jesus Christ

warned us:

**Luke 6:22-23 (KJV) "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. {23} Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets."**

Jesus said "**when men shall hate you**", not if men shall hate you. If you are in Christ, you are quite naturally at odds with the world. Jesus Christ died so that all *could* be saved, and God is:

**2 Peter 3:9 (KJV) "... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."**

The Way is there for all to be saved, but not all will be saved. Some will hear this message and leave this place, merging with the world once more, perhaps dying without Christ and going to a certain damnation. The saved Christian *walks and bears fruit for Christ* (Matthew 12:33). As the Bible says:

**James 3:10-12 (KJV) "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. {11} Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? {12} Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh."**

The Christian is the *fresh fountain* bearing pure water in a *salt water world*. We are at odds with the world, *intolerant* and branded as *hypocrites and self-righteous prigs*. Yet as Ambassadors of Christ we walk for Him.

c. Third, you will have tribulations because *the curse of Adam still rests on you*. Our souls are saved, but our bodies are yet corrupt. Our bodies decay, age, and die because *Adam* brought death on all his progeny. Yet the Bible tells us that there is coming a day when our bodies are *made alive and perfect*, when sin shall be erased and we receive *glorified bodies*:

**1 Corinthians 15:50-53 (KJV) "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. {51} Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, {52} In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. {53} For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."**

The curse of Adam rests on everyone in this room, but those who are in Christ have the *promise of the Second Adam - of Jesus*, that you shall one day have a perfect body like His. But while you are in this body of death, though your soul is saved by Christ, every day you age and grow older. Sickness comes because of Adam, wrinkles come, tribulations come. Our Jesus saves us from eternal punishment, from the *second death* of the

Lake of Fire (**Revelation 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8**), but unless the Rapture comes first *in Adam all die* (**1 Corinthians 15:22**).

## **2. But Here's The Good News: Look To Jesus!**

**John 16:33 (KJV)** "These things I have spoken<sup>2</sup> unto you, that in me ye might have<sup>3</sup> peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation<sup>4</sup>: but be of good cheer; I have overcome<sup>1</sup> the world."

You shall *keep on having tribulation*. Oh, what bad news! Some of you may be saying, "I'll never come hear this man speak again", but Beloved, I want you to hear JESUS and not David. Yes, there is bad news, very bad news, but here's the good news that Jesus gave us:

**but be of good cheer; I have overcome<sup>1</sup> the world**

Again, the *tense* of this verse demands that we *not look to the Cross*, for the Cross was yet to come. Jesus was saying to His disciples *prior* to the Cross, **I have overcome the world with the result that it remains overcome**. This is a powerful promise from Jesus! How did Jesus overcome the world and its tribulations?

a. First, Jesus overcame the *god of this world*. When Adam was confronted in the Garden of Eden by Satan, he heeded Satan and ignored the Word of God. His failure brought the Adamic Curse on all his children:

**Romans 5:19 (KJV)** "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the

**obedience of one shall many be made righteous."**

But Jesus, when confronted by the serpent in the wilderness, *defeated Satan by relying on the Word of God*. If you study the *temptation of Christ* in **Matthew 4** you will see that Jesus responded to each of Satan's ploys with:

**Matthew 4:4 (KJV)** "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

**Matthew 4:6-7 (KJV)** "And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. {7} Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

**Matthew 4:10 (KJV)** "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

the words **it is written**. Jesus Christ overcame the god of this world with the Word of God. When we are tried by the god of this world how shall we respond? Shall we use our own tactics, our own desires, our own *cursed facilities* to defend against a *fallen cursed angel*? No! We must prepare, and trust, and use that Word of God. The *only offensive weapon* the Christian has in his armor is the Word of God.

**Ephesians 6:17 (KJV) "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"**

Keep watching the television, keep being entertained by watching the foolishness often shown on TBN, keep your Bible closed while you stay up late watching HBO or Cinemax. Keep the level of dust on the Holy Word, and you will *never* find that peace that Jesus promised you. Remember, Jesus said:

**that in me ye might have<sup>3</sup> peace**

Do you want the peace of God that passes all understanding? Then follow Christ's example, and fight the god of this world and the tribulations he brings with the Word of God. Learn to use that Sword of the Spirit!

b. Second, Jesus overcame *the religion of this world*. There are truly only *two religions*: the True Faith of God, and the false religion of Satan. The *religion of this world* teaches hatred, superiority, racism, division, evil, acquisition, tolerance toward ungodliness but intolerance toward Christ. The *religion of this world* teaches that god is generic, *not your Father*. The religion of this world has many high priests, many rituals, and many confusing ways.

But the True Faith of God, found only in Jesus Christ, has *only One High Priest*. You may have a pastor, a shepherd, an overseer, or a bishop, but you only have One High Priest, and He is Jesus Christ our Lord! Jesus Christ *spoke* and *taught* as the only True High Priest.

Listen Beloved: **one hundred and twenty one times in the Gospels** Jesus followed this formula. He said "*You have heard that it was said ... BUT I SAY UNTO YOU*". Jesus our High Priest took everything that was ever written and *misinterpreted in the Word of God by fallen man and by the religion of this world*, and corrected it for all time. Jesus corrected the *scribes and the Pharisees*, the followers and perverters of the True Faith, and denounced them as:

**Matthew 23:13 (KJV) "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."**

no more than hypocrites. He told these self professed *pillars of righteousness* that God's faith, the True Faith, is centered on a relationship with God's Son. He said:

**John 8:42-44 (KJV) "Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. {43} Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. {44} Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."**

Our High Priest showed in a thousand ways how limited

*religion is* when divorced from His teachings. The religions of this world divided, the True Faith brought peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The religion of this world gives no peace, but creates division. The religion of this world and its god puts *me first and you last*, and never brings peace because we never *are first*. The True Faith gives *anyone equal opportunity* to reach God. We have ONE High Priest, Jesus. ONE means of salvation, justification by faith. ONE God the Father Who loves us, and Who allows tribulation to come on us for *our own good*. As the Scripture says:

**Romans 5:1-5 (KJV)** "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: {2} By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. {3} And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; {4} And patience, experience; and experience, hope: {5} And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

Further, we do not go through the tribulation alone, but the Holy Spirit *indwells every believer* in Christ *equally*. The Bible says:

**Romans 8:9 (KJV)** "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

c. Finally, Jesus overcame the *methods* of this world. He showed us that man's way of promoting himself was *faulty*, and *useless*. This is not God's Way, the Christian way. Jesus showed us:

**Luke 22:25-27 (KJV)** "And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. {26} But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. {27} For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth."

the Way that God would have us walk. Jesus Himself, Eternal God in the flesh, came among us. Though He received worship as was His due, He Himself showed us the Way when He washed the feet of His disciples. Jesus showed us that God's Way is to *serve* rather than to be *served*, to submit to one another in Christian love. The method of this world is to promote yourself first, others last. Jesus showed us how God honors sacrifice of self above all else. Jesus Christ Himself took the greatest sacrifice when, as our High Priest, He offered not an animal on the altar.

He offered Himself.

Because of His great act we have peace with God, if we cling to Him, if we believe on Him. Our High Priest showed us the Way by becoming The Way, the Truth,

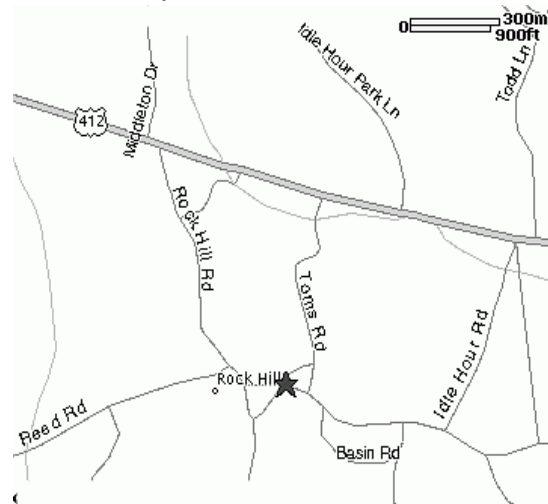
and the Life (John 14:6).

## Conclusion

There's an old song that says, "**this world is not my home, I'm just passing through**". This truth is especially shown in the words we studied today:

**John 16:33 (KJV) "These things I have spoken<sup>2</sup> unto you, that in me ye might have<sup>3</sup> peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation<sup>4</sup>: but be of good cheer; I have overcome<sup>1</sup> the world."**

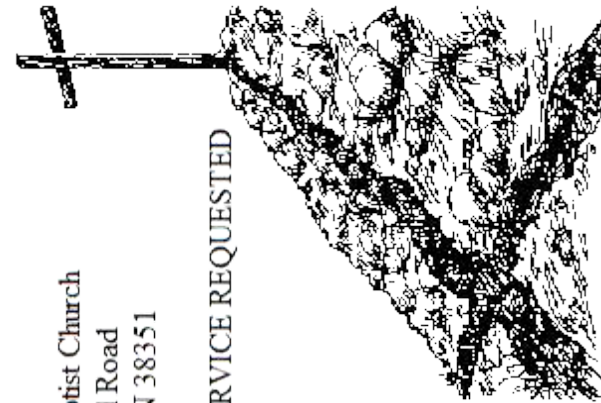
Whether you have salvation or not is *conditional* on whether you accept Jesus Christ as Savior. You will have trials and tribulations while you live in this world ... but you're **just passing through**. You *can* have peace with God while in this world, but you must be obedient to the Master in all things.



He has *overcome the world*, and you can be overcomers too by trusting Him with all of your life. May God mark your heart with this message!

Rock Hill Baptist Church is located between Parsons and Lexington, Tennessee, on Highway 412. Look for our sign! We have services on Wednesdays (Adult, Youth, and children's Bible studies) at 7:00 PM, Sundays at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Rock Hill is a family oriented Bible

believing Church - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Our Pastor, Brother David Buffalo, will answer any questions you have about our Church if you contact him at 731-845-6104, or through his website at [bibleteacher.org](http://bibleteacher.org); or e-mail him by writing [webmaster@bibleteacher.org](mailto:webmaster@bibleteacher.org). Rock Hill is an independent Church affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, and is a regular contributor to missions through the Cooperative Program.



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