



will ultimately come to an end, and those that partook in it will be held accountable before our Lord (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10). Know assuredly that every knee will bow before the throne of Christ and *all creation will acknowledge and confess* that He is Lord (cf. Phil 2:10-11). Take heart,

brethren, a reckoning is coming, but be diligent that **“your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord”**, so we may be counted among those who **“overcame the accuser by the blood of the Lamb”** (1 Thess. 5:23; Rev. 12:11). After all, **“Who is it that overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”** Indeed, John makes it plain to us when he says, **“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— OUR FAITH”** (1 John 5:4-5 emphasis mine).



Faithful Sayings Issue 12.47 November 21, 2010

4700 Andrews Ave.  
Amarillo TX 79106  
806-352-2809  
www.olsenpark.com

## Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.  
Please come again.

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

12.47

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

November 21  
2010



### Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:20 AM  
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

### Elders:

Pat Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Kyle Pope

### Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Bill Davis  
Steve Dixon  
Pat Goguen  
Jack Langley  
Neil Ledbetter  
Brady McAlister  
Walker McAnear  
Lance Purcell  
Rusty Scott

### Evangelists:

Kyle Pope  
Jason Garcia

## Faith is the Victory

By Jason Garcia

Perhaps one of the most powerful and effective weapons in the history of war, has been the employment of psychological tactics, or “psychological warfare”. It is defined as “the use of propaganda, threats, or other psychological techniques to mislead, intimidate, demoralize, or otherwise influence the thinking or behavior of an opponent” (Dictionary.com). Recently, in the news and other media, we’ve no doubt heard about the morale of troops in the field and the corresponding predictions as to how their mental state will affect their fighting ability. As soldiers for Christ, we face the same struggle, for our Enemy uses those tactics against us. We are always exposed to stories in the media about murderers, rapists, and other vile people who are at large or, even worse, never brought to justice. Still more, we are faced with other evils: hate groups masquerading as po-

litical organizations with an agenda to legalize gay marriage, abortion, and marijuana etc. to the overall detriment of society. As we see these kinds of groups making progress toward their goals, it can be easy for us to feel overwhelmed and underestimate the influence we may have on the local populace. Let us turn to Scripture, now, and notice



Olsen Park church of Christ

the comforting words God has given us concerning this matter.

First, we must understand that the immorality we see in the world is to be expected and, furthermore, we should not be surprised at the progressive nature we see in the corruption of society's values. The Spirit inspired Paul to write, **"...evil men and imposters will proceed from BAD TO WORSE, deceiving and being deceived"** and again we should **"avoid empty and worldly chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene"** (2 Tim. 3:13; 2:16-17 NASB emphasis mine). Notice that Paul says **"their talk will spread like gangrene"**; do you suppose **"their talk"** would include the ungodly agenda that is preached in favor of legalizing many sins? Despite the prominence of wayward thinking and teaching in the world, we cannot allow ourselves to become demoralized and discouraged, or lose our desire to speak the truth of God. Jesus Himself testified that we would have trouble so long as we remained in this world, but in the same breath He tells us to **"take heart"** for He has **"overcome the world"** (John 16:33).

As God's people and soldiers in His army, we share in His conquest—His "overcoming the world". Consider what Paul said to the church at Rome,

**"...we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us"**; but this leads us to ask, "How are we conquerors when evil still prevails in the world?" Let us consider several passages beginning with the book of Hebrews: **"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might DESTROY HIM who had the power of death, that is, THE DEVIL, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage"** (Heb. 2:14-15 emphasis mine). Christ has destroyed the power of the devil, so that we may no longer fear death. Paul knew that Christ had fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy and says, **"Death is swallowed up in VICTORY. O Death, where is your victory? O Death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who GIVES US VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ"** (1 Cor. 15:54-57; cf. Is. 25:8 emphasis mine). Brethren, we have nothing to fear, not even death itself! Paul asks, **"If God be for us, who can be against us?"** (Rom. 8:31), and then assures us that there is absolutely nothing that can separate us from the love of Christ (cf. Rom. 8:38-39). The only thing that can separate us

from Christ is ourselves, and the sin we commit, but we are promised that **"if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness"** (1 John 1:9). Brethren let us make every effort to abide in His Word so that we may stand in His grace for **"there is now no condemnation for THOSE IN Christ Jesus"** (Rom. 8:1; cf. John 15:10; Col. 1:22-23 emphasis mine). We can be confident, brethren, that *His* victory is *our* victory, and nothing can take that from us, neither death, nor the devil himself.

Finally, we can take comfort in knowing that all the evil in the world