

Revelation Series

Lesson #086

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**Revelation 3:21, “To him who overcomes
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νικάω *nikao*

articular pres act ptcp

“victors, winners, conquerors, overcomers.”

Cognate to the noun, νίκη, *nike*, “victory,
success.”

Nikao “to overpower, to gain victory, to win.”

What All Resurrected Believers Have in Common

- **All get raptured**
- **All get resurrection bodies**
- **All have perfect happiness [though the non-overcomers have a period of shame at the Judgment Seat of Christ (JSC)]—
1 John 2:28**
- **All have eternal life and spend eternity in Heaven**

Contrast Between

Victorious Believers and Defeated Believers

- 1. The victorious believer receives rewards, privileges, and blessings at the JSC, 1 Cor. 3:12–15.**
- 2. Victorious believers have different levels of privilege and authority in the kingdom.**
- 3. Victorious believers will rule with Christ as kings and priests.**

Contrast Between

Victorious Believers and Defeated Believers

- 1. Defeated believers fail to put doctrine first, count the cost, apply the Word, and grow spiritually.**
- 2. Defeated believers are often wonderful people and successful in the things of temporal existence and the details of life.**
- 3. But Defeated believers become distracted by the details of life.**
- 4. Temporal loss of blessing and happiness.**

Contrast Between

Victorious Believers and Defeated Believers

- 5. Shame at the JSC, 1 John 2:28.**
- 6. Loss of rewards at the JSC, 1 Cor. 3:15;
Rev. 2:11; they become disinherited, but do
not lose their salvation.**
- 7. They will enter but not inherit the Kingdom,
Gal. 5:19–21; 1 Cor. 6:10.**
- 8. Their rewards will be destroyed in the Lake
of Fire, Rev. 21:8.**

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1 John 5:4, “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”

Overcomer: Two Views

- 1. Every true believer is an overcomer.**
- 2. Only believers who advance in the Christian life are overcomers.**

John 16:33, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

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Perfect: completed action

Jesus completed His victory over the world before He went to the Cross.

- 1. Before Christ went to the Cross He overcame the world.**
- 2. The “world” or worldliness is different from sin.**
- 3. On the Cross Jesus Christ paid the sin penalty.**
- 4. In His life He overcame the thinking of the world, setting the precedent for our victory over the world.**

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“to form according to a pattern or mold, be formed like, be conformed to, be guided by”

μεταμορφόω,
metamorphoo;
“to change inwardly in fundamental character or condition, *be changed, be transformed*”

DEVIL

World System



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demonic = arrogance and autonomy and hostility toward God.

The Characteristics of *Worldliness*

Worldliness is the thought of the creature Lucifer in rebellion against God.

Arrogance ⇒ hostility toward God

Autonomy ⇒ independence from God

The Characteristics of *Worldliness*

- An orderly, organized system of thought providing the creature with a rationale for living independently of his Creator.
- *Worldliness* is the thought structure which provides the rationalizations for the operation of the sin nature.
- Thus, worldliness relates to the post-salvation life of the believer, divine viewpoint or human viewpoint.

“The *cosmos* is a vast order or system that Satan has promoted, which conforms to his ideals, aims, and methods. It is civilization now functioning apart from God—a civilization in which none of its promoters really expect God to share, who assign to God no consideration in respect to their projects; nor do they ascribe any causativity to Him.”

“This system embraces its godless governments, conflicts, armaments, jealousies, its education, culture, religions of morality, and pride. It is that sphere in which man lives. It is what he sees, what he employs. To the uncounted multitude it is all they ever know so long as they live on this earth. It is properly styled *the satanic system*, which phrase is in many instances a justified interpretation of the so-meaningful word, *cosmos*. It is literally a *cosmos diabolicus*.”

~Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, 2:77.

“Next to the lie itself, the greatest delusion Satan imposes—reaching to all unsaved and to a large proportion of Christians—is the supposition that only such things as society considers evil could originate with the devil—if, indeed, there be any devil to originate anything. It is not the reason of man, but the revelation of God, which points out that governments, morals, education, art, commercialism, vast enterprises and organizations, and much of religious activity are included in the *cosmos diabolicus*.”

“That is, the system which Satan has constructed includes all the good which he can incorporate into it and be consistent in the thing he aims to accomplish. A serious question arises whether the presence of gross evil in the world is due to Satan’s intention to have it so, or whether it indicates Satan’s inability to execute all he has designed. The probability is great that Satan’s ambition has led him to undertake more than any creature could ever administer. Revelation declares that the whole *cosmos-system* must be annihilated—not its evil alone, but *all* that is in it, both good and bad. God will incorporate nothing of Satan’s failure into that kingdom which He will set up in the earth.”

~Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, 2:100.