

ENGAGING GOSPEL DOCTRINE (EPISODE 171)

LESSON 45

[“He That Overcometh Shall Inherit All Things”](#)

Hook	Does “overcoming” have to involve conflict?
Manual Goal	To help class members understand some of the blessings that will come to those who overcome the trials of mortality through their testimony of <u>Jesus Christ</u> .
EGD Goal	To help class members understand the relationship between overcoming and acceptance, and when to apply each in their lives.

We are tax exempt!! I received a letter today from the IRS notifying me that the Olam Institute has 501(c)(3) status. And because that status is retroactively effective to the Institute’s founding in January of 2014, anything you have ever donated is tax deductible.

Made in November: \$1686, and that is even with a single \$500 donation. So we are on track to have mini-episodes next year unless we can make it up in December. I have an Intro episode planned and Grant Hardy agreed to be on. I will do that, but again, the actual episodes will be minimal unless we can get more support.

We need to have a strong finish this December. If you are able to support the podcast and want to make a tax-deductible donation, now is the time to do it.

Corrections to Consider:

No one has commented on my “God is Love” lesson, which I felt very good about, but I have been called an apostate twice for my response to the policy changes (how much to include?)

Another individual asked the important question of why I ask for donations to support the podcast. Since as members we are used to donating our time (a worthwhile trait!), it is a question that merits frequent response.

Why do you charge money? You are using the LDS church manual and making money off it.

thank you for visiting and taking the time to comment. This is a worthwhile question.

I ask for donations because this podcast is my part-time job that I put about 15-20 hours a week into. It takes away time from my family and other important tasks. If I did not receive the support of listeners, I could not do the podcast, period.

I am actually not making money off the manual--I am following the schedule yes, but I always create my own lessons from scratch.

I feel completely comfortable asking for support. I see my role as something like a BYU professor or CES teacher, both of whom get paid. Or like I am writing a book, for which authors get paid.

Which positions in the Church get paid and which do not when the Church brings in about \$7 billion a year is an interesting question. Of course the Church has operating costs it needs to cover. I am producing a product that improves the Sunday School experience and so listeners support me, for which I am grateful.

Lesson 45: ["He That Overcometh Shall Inherit All Things"](#)

Manual Goal: To help class members understand some of the blessings that will come to those who overcome the trials of mortality through their testimony of Jesus Christ.

EGD Goal: To help class members understand that we often "overcome/conquer" our shortcomings and failings through love and acceptance.

I. Sunday School

- a. Framing (Revelation is a *symbolic* vision of the end of the world. We need to take that seriously)
 - i. How this lesson will likely go down
 - ii. What is the most beneficial way we can discuss these chapters?
- b. Two minute take-home
 - i. Remember, this is symbolic
 - ii. Conquering vs. surrender/acceptance (Important framing)
 - iii. Agency and the war in heaven
 - iv. Victory and defeat
 - v. What we need to overcome and what we gain by doing so
- c. Scripture Commentary
- d. Lesson
 - i. "Neither hot nor cold" (3:15) Commitment, zealousness, not apathy or laziness. Makes me think of a talk I heard on my mission: God loved Saul because he was a hard worker, even if misguided. Life requires passion.
 - ii. Agency and the War in Heaven (pity that Moses 4:1-4 isn't included in the assigned reading)
 - iii. What is a healthy way to view victory and defeat in life? How will we "conquer all things"? In what ways won't we? ("conquering" often is through submission and acceptance—certainly a Christian idea!) Focused, disciplined acceptance. In what situations do we actually need to fight? When there is opposition.
 - iv. What do we need to "overcome"?
 1. Our flaws and shortcomings
 2. Obstacles in life
 3. Those who seek to harm us

- 4. Broader injustice
 - v. What do we inherit if we “overcome”?
 - vi. What do we gain in this life?
 - e. Full Reading
 - II. Scripture Study
 - a. Features of an apocalypse (the genre)
 - b. The interpretation of Revelation (ESV has a superb summary)
 - c. Scripture and symbolism (core question: what do we take literally and what do we take symbolically?) One problem is that the idea of “literal” is a modern one. The first step is to be open to the idea that everything is not literal, and that scripture can retain meaning even if not literal, and then follow the clues in the text. Parables are an interesting example. Another problem is that if we are taught a particular passages is literally true (Jonah!) we will resist new information that suggests that is not the case.
 - d. Revelation and Canon
 - e. Book Recommendation!! <http://amzn.to/1lk4ivs>
 - III. Study Notes
 - a. Revelation down the rabbit hole
 - i. Literal, imminent (this actually has serious problems)
 - ii. Literal, eventual
 - iii. Dual fulfillment
 - iv. Symbolic, referring to future events
 - v. Symbolic, referring to past events
 - b. Theological musing: What if the final battle in Revelation is the War in heaven? (a cycle that repeats)
 - c. Vindication. What would it feel like if it never came? (acceptance rather than hope for everything being set right)
 - d. What would Christianity be like without Revelation?
 - e. Can you have LDS without LD?

Link to Brene Brown.