

The Parish VISITOR

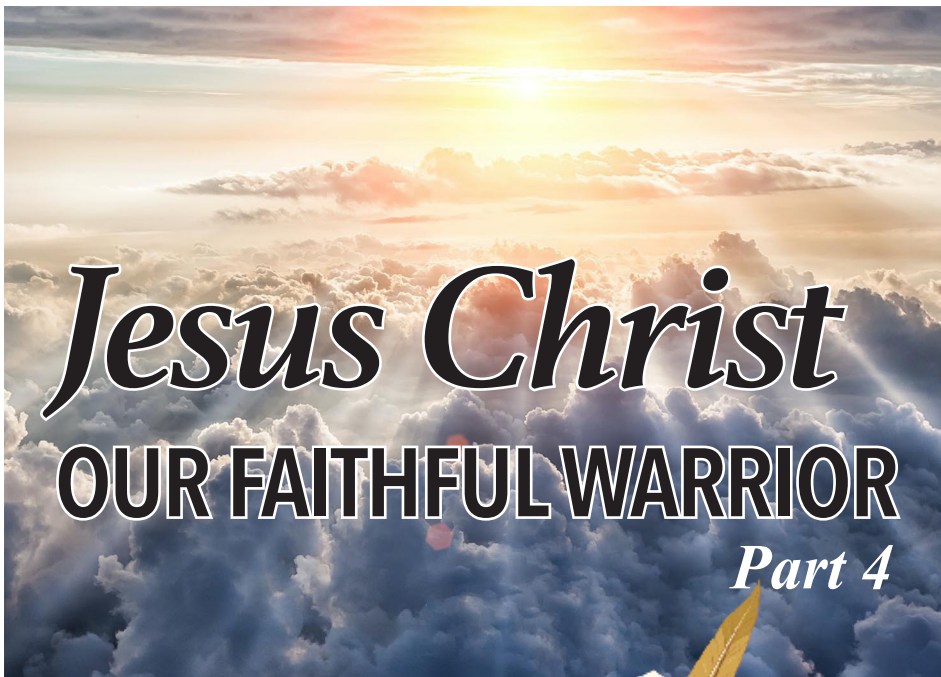


"Be Transformed...By the renewing of your minds." - Romans 12:2 - NIV

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The REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY, Pastor

cpchollywood.org

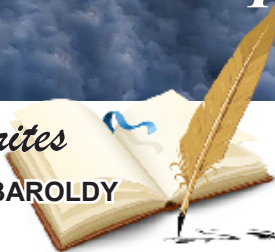
SEPTEMBER
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Jesus Christ OUR FAITHFUL WARRIOR Part 4

your pastor writes

By REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to all the readers of the *Parish Visitor!*

This month we continue in Revelation, chapter 19. We are discussing Jesus Christ, our Faithful Warrior. I pray this message will be an encouragement for the times in which we live.

*Jesus Christ our Faithful Warrior
Part 4, Rev. 19:11-16, originally given
on May 16, 2021 at CPC*

Introduction:

This morning, we continue our discussion on Jesus Christ, our Faithful Warrior. Here, in Rev. 19:11-21, John sees King Jesus sitting on a white horse which means King Jesus is riding into battle.

As we have discussed, Pastor Darrell Johnson proposes that John, through the Holy Spirit, is answering two questions in Rev. 19:11-21. First, why does

Continued next page



WELCOME BACK

in our Sanctuary!

In addition to the in-person worship, we continue to stream the service on Zoom for those unable to attend in-person.

The invitation for joining the service can be found at the events page on our website at cpchollywood.org.

You can send in your prayer requests PRIOR to the service via email to sbaroldy@gmail.com or text at 323-202-5078.

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood is an intentional, healing community; proclaiming and demonstrating the wholeness of life offered in JESUS CHRIST.

***“O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue
you know it completely, O LORD.” (Psalm 139:1–4, NIV84)***

Jesus win the battle spoken of in these verses. And, second, how does Jesus win the battle.¹ This morning we continue to talk about why Jesus wins the battle.

Now, in previous weeks, we have discussed Jesus Christ as the Word of God. We have discussed Jesus as Faithful and True. And those messages are on our website if you want to review them.

The key point in these messages is this. King Jesus has already won the battle against evil. King Jesus won the battle at the Cross. King Jesus won the victory when he was raised from the dead breaking the power Satan and death had over creation. King Jesus has won the victory. The outcome is not in question.

Here, in Rev. 19:11-21, King Jesus rides into battle to fully implement his victory and remove evil once and for all. With that quick review, let's move on.

Jesus wins because his eyes are like a flame of fire:

Let me re-read Rev. 19:12. It reads, *“His [Jesus] eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.”* (Revelation 19:12, ESV)

Jesus Christ wins his battle against evil because “his eyes are like a flame of fire.” This is the second time we have seen this description of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ. John tells us in Rev. 1:14 that “[Jesus] eyes were like a flame of fire.”

Here, in chapter 19, that description is repeated. The Holy Spirit repeats things in the scriptures for emphasis. When something is repeated, the Holy Spirit is saying pay attention.

When I read this description, that “[Jesus] eyes were like a flame of fire,” I think of Superman’s x-ray vision. Do you remember how Superman had x-ray vision? He could see through walls and other barriers which meant a person couldn’t hide from Superman.

This verse is telling us the same thing about the Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord Jesus is like a supernatural Superman. Not only can the Lord Jesus see through physical walls and barriers, the Lord Jesus sees the hidden things in our hearts, and minds, and spirits. Nothing is hidden from his *“eyes like a flame of fire.”*

A good illustration of this is found in Psalm 139:1-4. These verses read, *“O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.”* (Psalm 139:1–4, NIV84)

Notice, it says the Lord **has** searched us and knows us. The Lord Jesus knows everything about us. The Lord Jesus knows our physicals actions. He knows when we sit to rest, and when we rise to go to work or go shopping.

He knows when we come home and when we go to bed. The Lord knows all our activities. The Lord Jesus also knows our thoughts. And, he knows what we are going to say before we say it. In sum, the Lord Jesus knows all our ways. The Lord knows our habits. He knows our thought patterns. He knows our character.

And, most importantly, the Lord knows what is in our hearts. The Lord Jesus knows if we truly believe in him. He



The Lord Jesus SEES ALL, HEARS ALL, AND KNOWS ALL.
Do not ever think you can hide something from our Lord Jesus! The Lord Jesus' eyes, like a flame of fire, burns through our public masks.

knows if we really trust him. The Lord Jesus knows if we have completely submitted our lives to him as Lord and Savior.

The Lord Jesus sees all, hears all, and knows all. Do not ever think you can hide something from our Lord Jesus! The Lord Jesus' eyes, like a flame of fire, burns through our public masks.

He sees through our public face and knows how we live in private. Again, he sees the hidden things in our hearts, minds and spirits. If we have any darkness, or unconfessed sin, the Lord Jesus sees it.

So, I encourage you, do not try to hide unconfessed sin from Jesus. Jesus has already died for those sins. Confess them, and let the Savior's blood wash them away.

"With eyes like a flame of fire," the Lord Jesus sees right through his enemies. He knows who are his enemies. His enemies cannot fool him by saying one thing in public, and believing something else in private.

I pray our government leaders would take note of this. The Lord Jesus knows his enemies plans. Nothing takes him by surprise. He is always a step ahead as he knows the end from the beginning.

Bottom line, the Lord Jesus' enemies cannot hide from him, they cannot fool him, and they cannot overcome him. So, when King Jesus fully implements his victory, they will be judged. King Jesus wins the battle against evil because his eyes are like a flame of fire.

Jesus wins the battle because "on his head are many diadems." Next, verse 12 tells us King Jesus wins because "on his head are many diadems."

In the first century, kings would wear more than one crown to show they were kings over more than one country. King Jesus wears many crowns because he is King over the whole universe.

Yet, there is more happening in this imagery. In Rev. 12:3, John sees the dragon, who is the devil, "with seven heads . . . and on his heads were seven diadems." And, in Rev. 13:1, John sees "a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads." (Revelation 13:1, ESV)

So, the devil and his beast have multiple heads and multiple diadems. This imagery tells us that, because of sin, the devil and his beasts have had temporary authority and power over humanity, and over creation. They reign over those humans who are in rebellion against King Jesus. But, this temporary authority and power are coming to an end.

Here, in counterpoint to this imagery, King Jesus has one head with many diadems or crowns. All permanent power and all authority resides in King Jesus. King Jesus is Lord over all creation. King Jesus is sovereign over the dragon and the beast of the sea. And at the end of Revelation, chapter 19, we will see their final defeat and judgment.

In addition, diadems, or crowns, are symbols of victory. As King Jesus rides into this final battle, he already has many victories. If you are in Jesus Christ, you are one of his victories. I am one of his victories.

Every human being, who has come to faith in Jesus Christ, is one of his victories. When we come to faith in the Lord Jesus, we are delivered from the power of the devil. We are delivered from the power of sin and death. In Christ, we have overcome evil and we become a crown on the Lord Jesus' head.

The Lord Jesus now has billions of crowns on his head. The Lord Jesus wins the battle against evil because "on his head are many diadems." The Lord Jesus is sovereign over

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When we come to faith in the Lord Jesus, we are delivered from the power of the devil. We are delivered from the power of sin and death.

the devil, the two beasts and rebellious humanity. And, in this final battle, they are judged.

Jesus wins because he has a name written on himself which no one knows except himself. Next, King Jesus wins because he has a name written on himself which no one knows except himself.

According to Pastor Darrell Johnson there are two points being made here.² First, in ancient times, people believed if you knew a god's name, little "g," you could exercise some control over that god. That's why people made idols out of stone and wood and kept them in their homes.

So, to say Jesus Christ has a name no one knows but himself, is to say that Jesus Christ is under no one's control. Yes, King Jesus loves us passionately. Yes, King Jesus shows us wonderful compassion. Yes, King Jesus wants us to be whole in body, mind, spirit, and emotions. Yes, King Jesus honors his word. Yet, with all this being said, King Jesus is still sovereign. And he cannot be manipulated.

As you have discovered, King Jesus doesn't always do what we want when we want it. Have you discovered that? King Jesus doesn't always answer our prayers in the fashion we expect and in the time frame we want. I have heard people say things like, "if I fast long enough, or pray enough hours, or read my bible more, then Jesus will have to answer my prayers."

Now, fasting, praying and reading scripture are all good spiritual disciplines. Yet, we can't use them to manipulate Jesus. Instead, we fast, we pray, we read scripture, because that is what Jesus has told us to do. We do these things out of love and obedience. And, then, we trust Jesus to answer the prayer as he chooses, and when he chooses.

Actually, I am thankful our Lord Jesus cannot be manipulated because this means evil cannot manipulate him, or buy him, or control him in any way. King Jesus will always act according to his nature and character.

Which brings us to the second point. Again, in ancient times, names were thought to reveal a person's character and nature. So, if you knew a person's name, you knew what to expect from them. You had a mini-personality profile of them.

We think of Jacob in the Old Testament. Jacob's name meant "Deceiver." We remember how Jacob stole his brother's blessing by pretending to be Esau and deceiving his father Isaac.

Later, Jacob ends up wrestling with God. And at the end, God gives Jacob a new name, Israel. Israel means "prince of God." And from that moment forward, Jacob, now Israel, has a different character.

Another example is Simon the fisherman. When Jesus recruited Simon to be his disciple, he gave Simon a new name. Jesus named him, "Cephas, which means Peter, the Rock." Peter got a new name because of a new character trait.

And here's the exciting news! Rev. 2:17 says this. "*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers [meaning those who remain faithful to Jesus Christ] I [Jesus] will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him [or her] a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.*" (Revelation 2:17, ESV)

If we remain faithful to King Jesus until the end, we will receive a new name. King Jesus is going to give us the name, the personality, and the character, we will have for all eternity. Our new name will reflect the wonderful reality that our nature, and our character, are no longer marred by sin. All of our character flaws will be removed. All darkness will be removed. We will have fullness of being. We will fully be who our Creator created us to be.

Only Jesus will know our new name. It will be our special link to him. Our name will reveal our uniqueness. It will reveal the unique and special qualities the Lord Jesus had in mind when he created us. Isn't that wonderful!

I look forward to meeting those who have gone before and getting to know the fullness of who God created them to be. This will be so exciting!

King Jesus has revealed himself to us under many, many names. Here, in this passage, King Jesus has revealed himself as Faithful and True. Yet, since King Jesus has a name that no one knows except himself, there will always be more to learn about King Jesus.

King Jesus wins the battle against evil because his enemies cannot fool him or hide from him. They cannot control him, or manipulate him in any way. King Jesus wins because he is sovereign over the whole universe.

Finally, King Jesus wins the battle against evil one disciple at a time. Each person who comes to faith in Jesus Christ is a crown on Jesus' head. We praise God that King Jesus is our Faithful and True warrior. Amen!

See you next month,
Pastor Steve

¹. This line of reasoning is laid out by Darrell Johnson in his book, "Discipleship on the Edge, (Vancouver, B.C., Regent College Publishing, 2004), p. 324ff

PRAYER Request

If you have prayer requests, you can send them via email or text PRIOR to our service each Sunday. My email is sbaroldy@gmail.com. You can text me at 323-202-5078.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,
 Who art in Heaven,
 Hallowed be thy Name.
 Thy Kingdom come,
 Thy Will be done,
 On earth as it is in Heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our debts,
 As we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 But deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the Kingdom and
 the Power and the Glory forever.

Amen



Join us in
Worship
 SUNDAYS at 11:00 A.M.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/384758031?pwd=ZnEySIBjL1VkuMhiTWRCREdmZVhJZz09>

Meeting ID: 384 758 031

Password: 351955

One tap mobile

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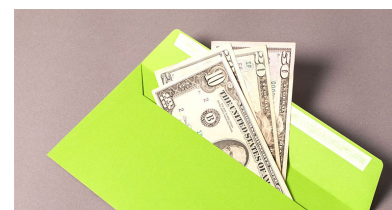
FINANCIAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER
 2021



	<u>SEPT. 2021</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Receipts	\$ 9,498	\$ 95,273
Disbursements	\$ 11,717	\$ 109,750
Increase (Deficit)	(\$ 2,219)	(\$ 14,478)

Gifts & Offering



The Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact our lives. Amidst all the challenges, CPC is doing all we can to serve our church, to connect people to one another, and to connect all of us to God through our online worship.

We are grateful for your continued generosity in supporting our mission and NOW more than ever we need your help for us to continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and give hope to others.

Please consider sending a gift or donation to:

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
 4011 Clinton Street, Los Angeles, CA 90004

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Let us remember to keep in our prayers the church family and friends who are in need of God's healing touch: overall healing for Kimi Fujitani, Charles Ingram, Janet Nozaki, Frank Morimoto, Stella Kenner, Karen Koranye, Lashman Johal, Pastor Steve, Martin; healing of knee and wrist of Maria Cardenas and prayers for Marley, Hunter, Cousin Dari, and Aunt Laley; overall healing for Ron Jung; healing and God's blessings for Harumi Mayeda; strength to care for her Mom for Irene Mayeda; overall healing for Joan Janecek; healing of legs of Sherri Esaki; healing of back and leg pain for Yuri Sangen; healing of left foot and diabetes for Denise Albriton; overall healing and healing of cancer in nostril of Brian Albriton; prayers for Pastor Steve, his wife Simone and their daughters Nicole and Noelle and David and Alice; revival for CPC and neighborhood, our elders, Faro de Luz Church, outreach to community, unsaved relatives and friends, and protection against major disaster.

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