

The 50 Days of Easter

Why the Struggle?

May 5, 2024

1 John 5v1-6

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, 4 for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. 5 Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 6 This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Can you think of the last time you had to struggle to overcome something?

Bighorn Sheep

What if we're made for the struggle?

Matthew 6v24

'No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Mark 8v36

For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

Matthew 6v10

Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

1 John and "conquers"

What's the deal with all the conquering language?

Who was John?

What if the outcome is not inevitable?

What does this have to do with the 50 Days of Easter?

Theodicy
- Meticulous Providence
- Calvinism
- Arminianism
- Open Theism

What if you're in the midst of a struggle right now?

...an invitation to struggle while being animated by the Holy Spirit!

Walter Brueggemann's:
- Orientation
- Disorientation
- Reorientation

How do we overcome?

"Enemy-occupied territory - that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in a great campaign of sabotage." _ C. S. Lewis

What is trust?

Songs: Goodness of God, Psalm 98: Sing Unto the Lord, Take Courage, Christ Be With Me, Open Up, The Hymn of Joy
Looking to Connect?: One of the staff would love to meet for a walk, on the phone, or for a beverage. To schedule a time please visit our website and click on the "Meet with Staff" button on the home page.