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Sermon Notes

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Total Victory Over Satan: Coming Soon

Romans 16:20

Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

A Christian man walks through the city. It's dark and the street light is out. He passes an alley and hears some low voices. Perhaps a drug deal being consummated. His heart rate escalates and he begins to sweat. He chides himself for being in this foolish predicament, because he had a parking ticket that he procrastinated paying, and the police had put the Denver boot on his car. So now he's walking through a particularly rough area of town. His eyes dart back and forth and he sees a woman in alluring clothing walking on the other side of the street. She smiles at him but he knows full well it's an attack on his soul rather than a display of genuine love.

He feels for his wallet as a group of teenagers comes toward him. They are cursing and punching each other, aimlessly looking for some fun on a Saturday night. They spot him and come toward him. He panics and begins to run. They chase him, knock him to the ground and steal his wallet. A police siren one block away scares the young men and saves his life. He staggers to his feet and manages somehow to get to a payphone to call his wife.

She is understandably worried because he's late. She comes and picks him up and she starts in on him for not taking better care of their car. His anger flares and he bites back at her. Soon they are in a stress-induced argument, saying things they ought not to say to each other.

The argument continues until she goes to bed. He decides to stay up and watch TV. He restlessly scans the stations of his satellite TV service and soon some images come on that he ought not to be looking at. Ashamed that there is any appeal at all, he wonders again why he hasn't cancelled the satellite service like his wife asked him to last month.

He overcomes by the power of the indwelling Spirit and turns the TV off. He remembers that he woke up too late that morning to have a quiet time, and that his accountability partner is going to ask him tomorrow about his devotional life. More out of duty than desire, he opens the Bible and begins to read. He gets down on his knees and prays. But while he prays, he is distracted by all that's happened to him that evening... he can't keep his mind on his prayers. He begins to worry about the car he left on the city street and about the money it'll take to get it back. He soon falls asleep on his knees, his time with the Lord ended ignominiously in his loud snoring. He wakes an hour later and staggers up to bed, forgetting to brush his teeth.

In the invisible, spiritual realms around him as he falls asleep next to his wife, an intelligent and personal spiritual force of evil plots the next days' strategies for luring this man to misery.

I. Understanding Our Enemy, and His Effect on Our Lives

A. What is the Context of this Promise?

1. Paul has been speaking to the Roman church
2. Eleven chapters of doctrine centered on the Christian gospel
3. Five chapters of practical applications of gospel truth
4. Closing comments:
 - a. greetings to many church members
 - b. warning against false teachers
 - c. now: this marvelous promise

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”

- i) linked to false teachers because Satan is behind every attack on the church
- ii) Satan's schemes of trying to divide the church by false teaching will ultimately fail

B. Who Is Satan?

1. Satan is the enemy of God and therefore of God's people
2. He is a spiritual being, created good by God
3. He fell into rebellion because of pride in his own beauty and power
4. He led a vast rebellion of angels who fell with him
5. He was defeated and thrown down to the earth
6. He was given a finite amount of time to exist on the earth
7. He tempted Adam and Eve to join him in his rebellion, and they did
8. In so doing, he led the world into its present state of general rebellion against God

C. What Effect Does He Have on the World?

1. He is the tempter

Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

2. He is called “god of this world”, master of the evil world system

2 Corinthians 4:4

3. He puts stumbling blocks in our paths

Matthew 16:23

The picture is this: you are walking along the road, free, happy, content... next thing you know, you're on the ground in pain from a shocking fall; Satan put a stumbling block in your way and you never saw it

4. He accuses us of our sins

Zechariah 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.

Revelation 12:10 the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

5. He directly opposes the advance of the gospel

- a. By blinding eyes

2 Corinthians 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- b. By snatching seeds that are sown: Parable of the Seed and Sower, Matt. 13

- c. By hindering the evangelists and their good plans

1 Thessalonians 2:18 For we wanted to come to you-- certainly I, Paul, did, again and again-- but Satan stopped us.

6. He causes material ruin and financial calamity

7. He kills people

By the power of Satan, Job lost 1) his oxen and servants (by a raiding party of evil men) ; 2) sheep and servants (by lightning); 3) camels and servants (by another raiding party of evil men); 4) sons and daughters by a natural disaster

8. He causes physical pain and suffering through disease and illness

Job 2:7 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head.

9. He tests us and sifts us like wheat

Luke 22:31-32 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.

What followed was the worst night of Peter's life... a night of temptation cleverly crafted to separate Peter's faith from Christ... by the time the night was over, Peter was denying that he'd ever heard of Christ and was calling down curses on himself

That is the immense power of Satan... to turn a faith-filled, loyal, dedicated servant of Christ into a cowardly, Christ-denying shell of his former self in one evening

10. He can enter people and take them over

John 13:27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him

11. He is a liar, thus leads people to lie

12. He is a murderer, and thus leads people to hatred and murder

John 8:44 [The devil] was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Satan is the father of all lies; therefore, he's the father of all false religions and cults; the father of all con games and deceptions; the father of all false business practices and government corruption; wherever there is deception, the father of lies is there

He is also the father of all murders; he is behind all the gang violence; all the school shootings and post office murders; every murder connected with drugs or domestic violence; Satan is the father of murder

Since Jesus linked murder to anger in the Sermon on the Mount, Satan is also the father of all sinful anger; he stimulates anger in relationships and foments dissensions, factions, and envy

Satan is ultimately the father of all broken relationships and conflicts between people

I do not discount the role of our sinful nature, I merely say Satan uses our sinful nature to create more and more sin

13. He makes schemes and plots against God's people

Ephesians 6:11-12 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

14. He masquerades as an angel of light

2 Corinthians 11:14

15. He sows false seeds among the true ones, false teachers and false brothers

Matthew 13:37-39 "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil.

Thus, all the non-elect, all the unbelievers and rebels, all people who hate Christ and Christ's people are sons of the devil...

John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire.

16. He has an organized kingdom on earth

Matthew 12:26 If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?

Ephesians 2:1-2 the ruler of the kingdom of the air

Ephesians 6:12 our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

17. He is like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour

1 Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Lions are powerful, cunning, vicious beasts of prey, capable of ripping a man apart with their powerful claws and jaws; lions have been known to weigh up to 700 pounds and measure eleven feet in length; their roar can be heard up to five miles away

What is it like to have such a violent and powerful foe? It is easier than having Satan after you

18. He is able to do counterfeit miracles to deceive perishing people

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

19. He has a throne and dwelling place in certain localities on earth

Revelation 2:13 *I know where you live-- where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city-- where Satan lives.*

20. He is called a great dragon who leads the whole world astray

Revelation 12:9 .

21. He is filled with rage because he knows his time is short

Revelation 12:12

22. Sinners follow his rebellion to their destruction

Matthew 25:41 *"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*

D. What Effect Does He Have on the Lives of Christians?

1. Satan's effects on believers are limited by God's sovereign protection

Job 1:10 *"Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.*

- a. The story of Job is encouraging to know that Satan does not have unlimited access to God's chosen people... he must ask permission for everything
- b. We should never imagine that Satan is equal and opposite to God... Satan is merely a created being, but God is the creator of all things and the ruler of all things
- c. Thus every temptation and test must first pass God's permissive will

1 Corinthians 10:13 *No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.*

2. BUT Satan's effects on believers are immense and pervasive

- a. Jesus was extremely concerned about leaving His chosen followers in the world with the devil prowling on the loose

John 17:11-12 *I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name-- the*

name you gave me-- so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

- b. We are hurt DAILY by the devil's wickedness, his intelligent and vicious evil empire
 - c. Every temptation you've felt since the moment you gave your life to Christ can be traced to Satan's attack on the people of God... he is YOUR ENEMY the devil, and he seeks your very life
 - d. Pain, suffering, anguish, death, financial ruin, fear, anxiety, regrets, depression, unbelief... these are Satan's weapons to make you and me miserable
 - e. Meanwhile, we are surrounded every moment by a malevolent world system that makes running a pure and holy race so immensely more difficult
 - i) We are surrounded by Vanity Fair, with all its evil allurements... with its lusts and sparkly materials, with its prestige and power and enticements
 - ii) That world is Satan's special creation, a filthy, lurking enemy of your soul
 - iii) It gives you not a moment's peace, pulls on you constantly to abandon the Savior you profess to love
3. What would just one day without him be like?
- a. Oh for just one day totally free from all Satan's influence
 - b. Of for just one hour even, to pray totally free from Satan's attacks
 - c. To witness and evangelize and labor for Christ without feeling the opposite pull
 - d. Even to feel the physical side of total freedom from Satan's presence in our bodies... no anxiety, no divided mind, no temptations and allurements
 - e. What's so amazing is that God is not promising one hour or one day, but an eternity free from Satan's influence!!!

II. Satan's Total Defeat Promised

A. Satan will be Crushed

1. Word means shattered completely, broken totally, destroyed
2. Rich use in OT and NT shows how dominant will be this crushing

[What the demoniac of the Gadarenes did to his chains] *Mark 5:3-4 This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him.*

[What Samson did to the lion that attacked him] *Judges 14:6 The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat.*

[What the voice of the Lord does to oaks] *Psalm 29:3-5 The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters. ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic. ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.*

3. Satan, his person, his kingdom will be totally and completely shattered

B. The God of Peace Will Do the Crushing

1. All glory, honor and power will go to God for Satan's total defeat
2. Satan may be the most powerful created being God ever made
 - a. There was a demon so powerful that the archangel Michael had to help the archangel Gabriel get past after a twenty-one day struggle
 - b. Perhaps that was Satan himself, or maybe one of Satan's henchmen
 - c. Either way, it shows how immensely powerful is Satan
3. BUT Satan cannot compare with the awesome power of Almighty God
4. The God of peace will do this crushing
5. Why "The God of peace"?
 - a. First and foremost, peace simply characterizes God's own person and nature
 - i) He is never stressed, never hurried, never anxious, never worried
 - ii) God is always at peace within Himself; never a shade or shadow of doubt or disagreement between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

iii) Like a placid, tranquil lake in which not a single pebble falls to cause a ripple, the God of peace will wage this final battle by His own power with total peace

b. Secondly, perhaps, Paul calls Him “the God of peace” in this context because of the immense contrast between Satan and God on this point

i) Satan is constantly churning and angry and frustrated and restless

ii) So also all his demons, who Jesus says roam the earth restlessly seeking rest and do not find it

iii) So also are all the wicked who follow his evil ways, who Isaiah says

Isaiah 57:20-21 the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. ²¹ "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

c. But most of all, I think Paul calls Him “the God of peace” to speak of the peace that God will bring His world and especially His beloved children when at last Satan is completely destroyed

i) What a rich peace it will be to sit and watch a perfect sunset over a perfect mountain vista perfectly at peace with God and with every single human being on earth and in heaven

ii) What a rich peace it will be to see Christ walking toward you in a fragrant orchard smiling and greeting you, knowing that, unlike Adam cowering in the Garden of Eden, you have nothing to hide

iii) What a rich peace it will be to have a conscience that is at rest in a world free from all evil people in a new creation free from all curse

iv) What a rich peace it will be to approach the throne of grace with confidence and find a warm welcome from Almighty God rather than a word of wrath and judgment

C. Mystery: The Crushing Will Be Under Our Feet

1. But here is a great mystery: the crushing will somehow happen “under our feet”

2. I think it may mean that God will empower us to crush Satan and his evil kingdom... perhaps in military conquest

Revelation 19:11-14 [When Christ returns] The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

3. Perhaps in a judgment role

1 Corinthians 6:3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

4. Most probably, it will be that God will lay Satan low and let us walk on him before he is dispatched to the Lake of Fire

Joshua 10:23-25 So they brought the five kings out of the cave-- the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon. ²⁴ When they had brought these kings to Joshua, he summoned all the men of Israel and said to the army commanders who had come with him, "Come here and put your feet on the necks of these kings." So they came forward and placed their feet on their necks. ²⁵ Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. This is what the LORD will do to all the enemies you are going to fight."

5. Satan boasted to Christ that the Kingdoms of this world have been given to him and he can give them to anyone he wants... How bitter will it be for him to see us inherit the earth and rule it forever
 - a. For we will inherit the earth

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

- b. We will rule the earth under God's sovereign throne

Daniel 7:18 the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever-- yes, for ever and ever.'

- c. Satan will be nowhere to be found... gone forever (more in a moment!!)

D. The Crushing Will Come Soon

1. "Soon": that word was written by Paul almost two thousand years ago!!
2. But remember that the Bible ends with this very same promise from Christ

Revelation 22:12 "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.

3. God's way of reckoning time is not the same as ours

2 Peter 3:8 With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

III. Satan Already and Not Yet Crushed

A. Satan Crushed at the Cross

This is the very crushing God originally predicted in the Garden of Eden:

[God prophesied to the evil serpent] *Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*

This is the first gospel prophecy in the Bible... Christ, the seed of the woman, would, at the price of temporary but infinite pain to Himself, crush Satan's head at the cross

Hebrews 2:14 [Christ became a man and died on the cross] so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil

Colossians 2:15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

B. Satan's Crushing Defeat Extended by Evangelism

1. Paul says God will crush Satan under our feet
2. God has willed Satan's defeat to take at least two thousand years
3. HOW? By the simple human feet tramping out a heavenly music: the advance of the gospel over every hill, across every raging mountain stream, beyond every turbulent sea, through every Satanic obstacle
4. Isaiah prophesied this trampling of the evil, Satanic city

Isaiah 26:5-7 He humbles those who dwell on high, he lays the lofty city low; he levels it to the ground and casts it down to the dust. ⁶ Feet trample it down-- the feet of the oppressed, the footsteps of the poor. ⁷ The path of the righteous is level; O upright One, you make the way of the righteous smooth

So the God of peace will continue to crush Satan under our feet

5. UNDER OUR FEET???

- a. Explanation #1: Evangelism and Missions

Romans 10:15 As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

- When the Apostle Paul's feet carried him across the Dardanelles into Macedonia to witness to Lydia in Philippi, beginning the conquest of Europe for Christ, Satan was crushed a little more
- When the feet of Roman Christians courageously trudged into the Coliseum to face the lions and gladiators, shedding their blood like sheep for the slaughter but not reviling back, Satan was crushed a little more

- In the 13th century, when Raymond Lull's feet carried him onto that ship to go witness to the Saracens who would eventually martyr him, Satan was crushed a little more
- In 1521, when Martin Luther's feet carried him to the Diet of Worms to defend his preaching of the true Gospel in the Reformation, despite fear of being burned at the stake; when he said **"I will go, though as many devils aim at me as there are tiles on the roofs of the houses,"** Satan was crushed a little more
- In the 18th century, during the Great Awakening when George Whitefield's feet carried him up the stairs of the platform to preach one more gospel message proclaiming the New Birth, Satan was crushed a little more
- In the 19th century, when Hudson Taylor's feet carried him to one village after another in the inland regions of China to bring the lost to Christ, Satan was crushed a little more
- When Jim Elliot's feet carried him onto that riverbed landing strip to witness to the Auca Indians of the Amazon, Satan was crushed a little more
- When your feet carry you across the office to witness to a coworker, or onto an airplane on a short term mission trip, or into an inner city after school Bible study, Satan is crushed a little more

Romans 10:15 "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

History has been marked with the march of the gospel, carried by humble messengers

The God of peace has been crushing Satan under our feet for two thousand years

And there's still more to come!

- b. Explanation #2: We end up ruling the earth while He is condemned
 - i) Satan is called "god of this world" and "ruler of the power of the air"
 - ii) Satan is behind all tyrannical human rulers who crush Christians
 - iii) Daniel 7 speaks of the rule of Antichrist who will crush the people of God for a time, times and half a time (3 ½ years)
 - iv) BUT the Antichrist and Satan will be crushed under our feet... we will rule in their place

Daniel 7:27 Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'

C. Satan's Final Crushing is Yet to Come

1. Satan has a crushing defeat already written about
 - a. It will cause him immense agony forever and ever
 - b. He will be tormented day and night in hell, burning everlastingly under the wrath of God

Revelation 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

2. That is what hell was originally designed for

Matthew 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'

3. Satan is enraged about this and the devils are immensely afraid of this

Revelation 12:12 woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

IV. What Life Will Be Like After Satan is Crushed

A. The New Heavens and New Earth: The Home of Righteousness

2 Peter 3:13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

B. Imagining Life Without Satan

1. No temptation
 - a. Hard to imagine what this will even feel like
 - b. We are as used to fending off constant allurements to sin as we are to feeling the constant pull of gravity
 - c. If we could experience one day without temptation, I guarantee it would feel like no other day in your life... emotionally, physically, spiritually
2. No accusations of sins
 - a. No feelings of guilt whatsoever... total freedom in the presence of God
 - b. No self-recriminations; no regrets; no hiding from God
3. No evil world system

4. No evil people or governments
 - a. Imagine standing in a perfect city and not worry at all about being mugged or attacked or insulted
 - b. Imagine seeing a beautiful meadow and having no signs posted “Keep Out”
5. No laws
 - a. Laws are for transgressors, not for the righteous
 - b. Rules and regulations: “Do not enter”, “Keep out”; “No trespassing”
6. No death, mourning, crying or pain
7. No danger or fear of future trouble
8. No curse on the earth

Imagine one single day in the New World:

You walk through the New Jerusalem... your perfect eyesight sees the vivid colors of the city walls sparkling in the supernatural light of the glory of God; you stand at a street corner without any fear whatsoever of being mugged or attacked in any way; as a matter of fact, those fears and anxieties are totally foreign to your peace-filled mind. Every sight you see points you to Christ, every thought that fills your mind heightens your love for God

Thirsty, you stoop and drink water from the River of Life flowing clear as crystal through the center of the city. This will be a busy day as steward of your inheritance, your very own possession, some eternal Real Estate more spectacular than any mansion this present age ever dreamed about.

You walk through the magnificent gates of the City of God, each made of a single iridescent pearl to the green grass of the New Earth... you climb energetically to the top of a well situated hill and your ears are filled with the songs of birds and the sounds of animals perfectly at peace with each other. The leaves on every tree glow with the light of God, and are lifted and caressed by a soothing gentle breeze.

You sit on the hill and look out over the valley. The River of Life flows serenely at the bottom of the valley. No insects annoy you, no ants swarm around you, no mosquitoes bite you. You feel completely at peace, with no sense of time pressure or anxiety; it's not like the end of a long weekend and soon you have to be back at work. Nothing like that crowds your mind.

You see some of the brothers and sisters in Christ walking up the hill toward you and you heart leaps for joy. You have no fear whatsoever that they will attack you, or insult you or diminish your peace in any way. Rather, you are delighted in them, gloriously radiant with the light of Christ. You greet them by name for they are familiar to you and they sit and join your peaceful gazing out over the fruitful valley. You sit and talk about the power and love

of God, and all His saving works of grace. It's as though joy compels you to speak out your worship. Every word you say enhances the joy of your companions, and so also all their words do the same to your heart. The aroma of fruit trees and flowers fills you as you breathe deeply. You share some of the fruit with them and they with you.

One single joyful thought fills your mind:

“When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun; we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’ve first begun.”

You are kings and queens on the earth, ruling under Christ for eternity. This is your Father’s world, and He’s given it to you to rule.

Satan is the farthest thing from your mind... so is the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the boastful pride of life.

Death, mourning, crying, pain are gone forever.

So is the curse on the land and on the fruit of your hands.

You see Christ every day and you are at peace.

You have chosen the best portion and it will never be taken from you! Christ is your reward, and His people share it with you forever.

V. Until Then: The All-Sufficient Grace of Christ

A. Verse 20 Continues

Romans 16:20 The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

B. “Soon” is not “Now”: Future Grace Needed

C. How Christ’s Grace Sustains Us Until Satan is Finally Crushed

1. Satan will be bitterly active against us until he is finally crushed
2. So, we will need all the grace of Christ to stand up against his attacks
3. That grace will be sufficient for us... it will be enough to see us through to the end

VI. Application

A. Come to Christ!!

B. Rejoice in this Promise

C. Stand Firm in the Day of Testing

D. Be Confident in the Advance of the Gospel

E. Be Involved in the Advance of the Gospel

F. Look Forward to the New Heaven and Earth