

E-Series Testimony



1 A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. **2** She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. **3** Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. **4** His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. **5** She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations

with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. **6** The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. **7** And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. **8** But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. **9** The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. **10** Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. **11** **They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.** —Revelation 12:1-11

In the book of Revelation, John writes that the red, seven-headed dragon (read evil incarnate—likely referring to the Emperor Domitian who persecuted Christians in his day) is doomed. His defeat is certain. Christians “overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.”

In John’s day Christians were *dying* because of the word of their testimony. Yet, the Good News of Jesus spread like wild-fire. Threats of torture and death couldn’t stop Christians from testifying. Their testimonies were powerful and efficacious. We are Christians today because they refused to be silenced.

Sunday in worship we celebrated what God has been doing in our congregation in a variety of ways, but the highlight for me was the opportunity for many in our church family to share the word of their testimony. We did this by “cardboard testimonies.” I was moved to read some of those testimonies and ponder how God has been working in the lives of brothers and sisters at Wightman UMC.

I want to say thank you to everybody who shared their cardboard testimony. It took courage to share in that way. In fact, it *always* takes guts to share your testimony (more about that later in the week). It’s a fearful thing, but it is also powerful.

For those who didn’t have the opportunity to share yesterday: Have you considered what your cardboard testimony would be? How has gone been working in your life? What transformation have you experienced? How can you share this with others without the use of cardboard?

Trying to Testify,
Pastor Michael