

Victory Through Christ

Introduction

1 Corinthians 15:57-58 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

- **Victory Defined: Final and complete supremacy; superiority in battle or war; success in any contest or struggle involving the defeat of an opponent or the overcoming of obstacles.**

1. Every individual delights in victory!

A. It is natural to desire to win.

B. Baseball, Football, Elections, War, Races

1 Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

2. We are promised VICTORY in the text "God who gives."

A. "Through our Lord Jesus Christ."

B. Paul expressed this confidence many times.

Romans 8:31-39

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

3. We have VICTORY "through Christ," but over WHAT?

Victory Over Sin

1. Over the guilt of sin.

Romans 3:23

Hebrews 10:16-22

A. Christ offers the only absolute remedy for sin.

B. There are many substitutes offered by man.

1) To deny the reality of sin.

2) There are various and sundry religious processes.

C. Judaism could not suffice.

Hebrews 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

D. In God's plan - It took the death of Christ to accomplish man's redemption.

John 3:16

1 Peter 1:18-20

2. Over the power of sin. The TEMPTATION!

Romans 6:12-14

2 Peter 2:9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

Victory Over Trials of Life

1. Over Sorrow.

A. Sorrow - A fact of human experience.

Job 14:1 Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.

B. Paul regarded Christ as the source of comfort in his life.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

2. Over Difficulties.

A. The road seems hard, but Christ promised to be with us.

Matthew 28:20.....I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Hebrews 13:5.....I will never leave you nor forsake you.

1) Christ is with us, even in difficult times.

3. Over Fear.

A. Fears on every hand.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

**1) Some may ask: “Will worldliness defeat Christianity?”
“Will Atheism destroy the Church?”**

a. NO - but it doesn't mean that you and I will not meet destruction.

2) Christians believe the kingdom is not to be destroyed.

Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Matthew 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

4. Over The World.

1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.

--- Song: **"Faith is the Victory"**

A. Christians are in the world but not of the world.

1) Notice the comforting words of Jesus.

John 15:18-19

John 17:14-16

2) Paul reinforces this by telling us to "hang in there."

2 Timothy 1:8-13

B. Jesus overcame the world. HE WAS VICTORIOUS!

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

C. How did He overcome the world?

1) He overcame the powers of evil.

a. He can also sympathize with our struggles!

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

2) He met every assault of the devil with the word. (Matt 4)

D. We too can overcome the world thru the word and our faith.

Victory Over Death

1. The question of Job has been asked thru the ages.

Job 14:14 If a man dies, shall he live again?....

A. Through Christ we are assured **VICTORY** over death!
1 Corinthians 15:20-22, 55-57

2. Jesus overcame death, so will we when we're raised a spiritual body! **1 Corinthians 15:44**

A. If God could create man's physical body, can He not also create an immortal body?

Paul's Challenge and Conclusion

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1. "Therefore" in view of the truth about the resurrection. "My beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable."

A. Be not shaken by temptation or cares.

B. Be firm, fixed, and unshaken in your faith.

2. "Always abounding in the work of the Lord." What is the chief work of the Lord? - To preach the Gospel!

A. Abound therein "Labor is not in vain" - This is a promise to You and I - FROM GOD! --- IT IS VICTORY!

B. We will be rewarded accordingly.
Romans 2:6-11

Conclusion

2 Corinthians 2:14-16 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? **ARE WE?**

1. Life is one **VICTORY** after another in Christ!

- A. **But Remember - that VICTORY in life, in death, and eternity is only “through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**
- B. **We must be “IN” Christ to receive the thrill of VICTORY!**

Galatians 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

1) **We must allow Christ to live in us.**

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

