

The Victory We Have In the Risen Christ

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I. Introductory Remarks.

As Christians we are celebrating the most triumphant and victorious day in the history of mankind. This is the day Jesus defeated death and hell and gave us as His people a sense of immortality.

As we celebrate this great and significant event that took place almost 2000 years ago, I would like to focus our hearts on, in this message, the victory that Jesus accomplished through His death, burial and resurrection.

II. The Death and Suffering of Jesus.

Before we can really appreciate the victory that we have in Jesus Christ, because of His resurrection, we need to fully comprehend and understand the amount of suffering He went through on our behalf and the great price that He paid for our victory.

Matthew's gospel, in Chapters 26 & 27, gives us a detailed description of the suffering that Jesus went through for us. In these two chapters of scripture we find many of the sufferings that Jesus endured on our behalf so that we could have the victory we now have in Him.

1. He was betrayed by one of His disciples.
2. He suffered an agonizing night in the garden of Gethsemane.
3. He watched as one of his most beloved and loyal disciples denied Him three times.
4. He faced the Sanhedrin where the chief priests and elders rejected His testimony.
5. He endured the crucifixion and the nailing to the cross.
6. The greatest price He probably paid was that of being rejected for a time by His own Heavenly Father when He cried out "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me".

The Book of Isaiah gives us a vivid account of the suffering that Jesus would go through because of the sins of mankind.

Isaiah 53:1-7 *Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see*

Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. 3He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. 7He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

III. The Death, Burial and Resurrection: The Purpose for Which Jesus Came.

Although Jesus accomplished many wonderful things in the few short years that He had among the people as God in the flesh, it was this moment in His life and ministry for which he was sent for.

John 1:29 *When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward Him, he said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

John 3:5 *And you know that He was manifest to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.*

Hebrews 9:26,28 *He has appeared to put away sin by sacrifice of Himself, so therefore Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.*

It was at this moment on the cross that Jesus was actually taking on the sins of the world. He was, in fact, becoming sin for us.

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Jesus, at this moment in time, was now taking the sins of mankind upon Himself by becoming sin, and God could no longer look upon Him and it was in this moment of darkness that He cried out with a loud cry, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"

IV. The Victory that Was Accomplished Through the Cross and The Resurrection.

When Jesus went to the cross and then rose from the dead, He accomplished a great victory for mankind. In this portion of the message I want to look at some of the things that He has accomplished for us so that we can walk in the fullness of the victory He has made available to us.

1. We Have Been Delivered From Death And Hell And Given A Sense Of Immortality.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was the greatest victory that has ever taken place, because in His resurrection, we have now been delivered from death and hell.

Revelation 1:18 *Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.*

1 Corinthians 15:53-57 *The mortal puts on immortality so that death is swallowed up in victory and death no longer has a sting.*

Death is one of the things people fear the most, but because of Jesus' resurrection and victory that was accomplished through it, we can have peace with God and hope for the future. There is no sting in death.

2 Timothy 1:10 *God's purpose has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel*

2. We Have Been Given A Living Hope And An Incorruptible Inheritance.

1 Peter 1:3-4 *We have been begotten to a living hope and given an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for each one of us as we set our hope on Jesus Christ and His resurrection.*

This hope is a very powerful element in our lives as it holds us steady during the many storms of life and causes to grow and mature in Him as He desires.

Hebrews 6:19 *This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil.*

3. We Have Power And Victory Over The Devil.

1 John 4:4 *You are of God, little children, and have overcome the, because he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

Romans 8:31,37 *If God is for us, who can be against us?...in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*

The following illustration illustrates this truth very well for us:

In his book "Forever Triumphant", F.J. Huegel told a story that came out of World War II. After General Jonathan Wainwright was captured by the Japanese, he was held prisoner in a Manchurian concentration camp. Cruelly treated, he became "a broken, crushed, hopeless, starving man." Finally the Japanese surrendered and the war ended. A United States army colonel was sent to the camp to announce personally to the general that Japan had been defeated and that he was free and in command. After Wainwright heard the news, he returned to his quarters and was confronted by some guards who began to mistreat him as they had done in the past. Wainwright, however, with the news of the allied victory still fresh in his mind, declared with authority, "No, I am in command here! These are my orders." Huegel observed that from that moment on, General Wainwright was in control.

Huegel made this application: "Have you been informed of the victory of your Savior in the greatest conflict of the ages?... Then rise up to assert your rights... Never again go under when the enemy comes to oppress. Claim the victory in Jesus' Name." Huegel observed, "We must learn to stand on resurrection ground, reckoning dead the old-creation life over which Satan has power, and living in the new creation over which Satan has no power whatever."

Luke 10:10 *Jesus said, "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."*

4. We Have Been Given Victory Over Sin.

Romans 6:4-7...*knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

Romans 8:10-11 *And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

5. We Have Been Given Great Power As A Result Of The Resurrection.

Ephesians 1:18-20 *...and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked*

in Christ when he raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.

V. Concluding Remarks.

1. We must confess this great victory that Jesus has accomplished for us and walk in it understanding that this is the manner in which the Holy Spirit is working in our lives.
2. We should live no longer to ourselves but unto Him who died and rose again.
3. We should seek those things which are above where Christ is as well as setting our mind and affections on the things above, rather than the thing of the world.

The great Easter truth is not that we are to live newly after death – that is not the great thing – but that we are to live here and now by the power of the resurrection; not so much that we are to live forever as that we are to, and may, live nobly now because we are to live forever." *(Phillip Brooks)*

I encourage you today to allow Jesus to complete His victory in your lives by receiving Him as Lord and Savior and giving yourselves 100% to Him for His service.