

THEME: WHO I AM IN CHRIST.

TOPIC: I AM VICTORIOUS.

TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:57, ROMANS 8:37, 1 JOHN 5:4

Introduction: *“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”.* **1 Corinthians 15:57**

Victory is the conquest of, or gaining a decisive advantage over, an enemy. The gospel proclaims the victory of God in Christ over the forces of evil in the world.

1. We are victorious because ‘the battle is the Lord’s – 1 John 5:4, 1 Samuel. 17:47.

It is his to bestow at will. ‘Victory’ is another way of saying that the world rests in the hands of a holy God, who orders all things.

Q: What role does our faith play in the victory which is won by the lord?

2. Jesus Claims Victory – Psalm 22:1

Many believers have always believed that when Jesus cried, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?” he was simply being rejected by God. The truth is He was also claiming Victory!

It’s often being thought that Jesus was rejected by God because he took on the sin of the world so God had to turn away from him. However God does not forsake people because of sin. Scripture is very clear that God loves sinners and constantly reaches out to them. Once you understand you will see this was not an act of an angry God seeking restitution, but the self-giving of a loving God to rescue broken humanity.

Q: Why is it important for us to know that we are Victorious in Christ?

3. God never forsook His Son – Psalm 22:1, 16, 18

When Jesus said the first line he was referring to the entire passage. Remember Jesus was dying from suffocation, He could barely talk. If we read the Psalm as a whole, we find the message does not end in despair at all, but victory and a remarkable prophecy. In Psalm 22 David goes back and forth between his security in God’s love and his fear that he had lost it: Wayne Jacobsen explains:

- a. David eloquently described the torrent of emotions that sin produces in us, overwhelming us with emptiness and making us feel abandoned.

- b. But he also affirms that God is there nonetheless and in the end will have his way even through our agony.
- c. When Jesus became sin for us he entered into the full shame, darkness and bondage of that sin. It is likely at the moment on the cross when God's wrath was consuming the sin he had become, that he couldn't even see the Father with whom he had shared fellowship through all eternity. Sin blinded him and he felt as if God had forsaken him.
- d. We too feel abandoned by God at some of our darkest moments. It doesn't mean he's left us, only that we can't see him through the darkness. The resounding truth, however, is that God is always there, never turning his face against those who are his.
- e. That Jesus felt abandoned only shows the depth to which he experienced our sin. He entered into it fully and for a moment in eternity the Son knew what it was like to experience Fatherlessness. How painful that must have been since he had lived every moment with his eye on his Father.
- f. Unseen though he was, the Father was still there in the same measure that he had always been. But having become sin itself he could no longer sense his Father's presence. Thank God the story didn't end there.

4. Victory Borne Out of the Depths of Pain

It was not long after his cry of abandonment that he offered the greatest demonstration of trust in the history of the world.

- "Father into your hands I commit my spirit."
- To the Father he could not see.
- To fulfil a plan that had long since faded from view.
- In utter despair and loneliness, Jesus did what Adam and Eve could not do living in the most pristine and beautiful of gardens.

Q: What is the application of Victory borne out of pain for today's believers?

5. He Trusted His Father – Luke 23:46, Romans 5:7-8

He committed his entire being into his Father's hands and in doing so breathed his last. The horror of the cross had reached its end. Sin had been consumed and his body spent. But his dying breath affirmed a heart of trust beyond comprehension. Now death's barrier had been crossed in a state of absolute trust and surrender. The power of death would be conquered, too.

Paul affirms repeatedly that God's work at the cross stands as the undeniable proof that we are loved. That God would go to such lengths to rescue us from our own waywardness so that we might be his friend.

***Discuss:** Every Test in our life makes us bitter or better, every problem comes to break us or make us. The choice is our whether we become **VICTIM** or **VICTOR**.*

6. We Enter into Victory by Obedience – Exodus. 19:5, 14:13–14, Deut. 28:1–6

We enter upon victory by the obedience of faith. As the Jesus said, only the Son can set men free (**John. 8:36**).

Q: How do we gain salvation by obedience in our daily lives?

Conclusion

- The Lord will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in his ways. And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you. ***Deuteronomy 28:9-10.***
- In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one. ***Ephesians 6:16***
- For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ***1 John. 5:4–5***

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, **and** you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”