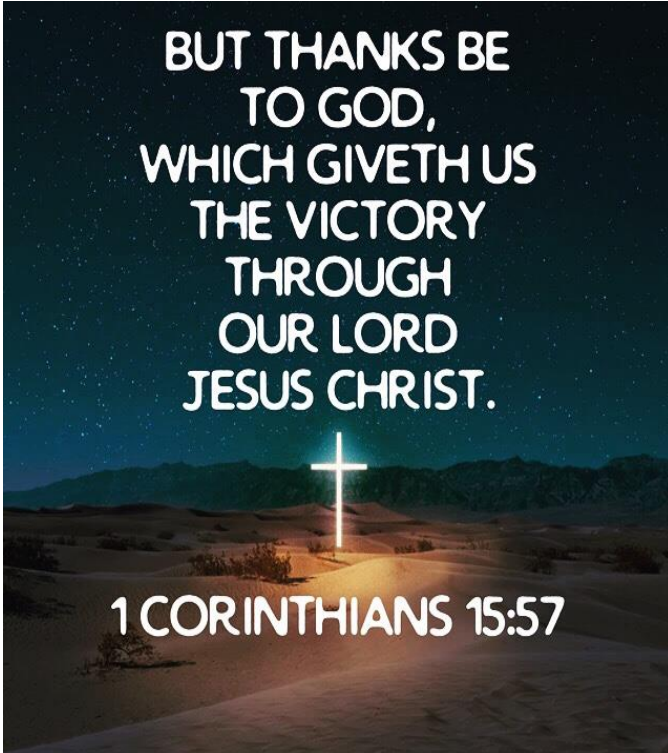


Victory in Jesus



By

William E. Thrasher, Jr.

Victory In Jesus

1 Corinthians 15: 51-57

51 Behold I show you a mystery; We Shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory,

55 O death where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Everybody loves a winner. That's an easy concept to understand. To the winners go the spoils. If you are pulling for the winners you get to share in the glory even if it is merely psychological. Your team

wins the Super Bowl, you get to celebrate. Your candidate wins the election you get to celebrate again. Some folks wait to see who the winner is before they declare whose side they're on, so that they are sure to be a winner. And there are still others who bet on both sides which is called hedging their bets, which means they win no matter what. Not so in the spiritual realm. You must declare your side. *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other or else he will hold to one, and despise the other.....”* Matt.6:24 The advantage that we have as followers of Christ, is that we already know what the outcome will be. We already know who the winner is. And the winner is Jesus! How much easier can it be? We get to choose sides in advance and we know that Jesus is the winner. In a world filled with uncertainty it's nice to know that we can count on Jesus. He is dependable, reliable, and most important of all, He is immutable (He changes not). “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” Hebrews 12:8 This is what insures our victory over sin. This is what makes us

more than conquerors. As Rev. Ike would say, “We can’t lose with the stuff we use!”

Humanity is under attack. And even though this enemy is something new to us, it is not the first attack like this that the world has faced, nor will it be the last. By no means am I suggesting that we take a cavalier attitude toward this global crisis. No indeed! We must take every precaution, observe every safety protocol and use every iota of sound judgement that God has endowed us with to fight and ultimately overcome this invisible enemy. But we should also remember that the real battle is not with the physical or carnal adversary for they can only attack the flesh.

“Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28

“Fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” This is the real battle, this is the real struggle, and this is the war that we must win! This is the victory that we must declare!

To be clear sin is a most insidious adversary. Sin is shrewd, sin is cunning, and sin is fatal! Sin will attack when one would least expect it to. Sin knows where we are most vulnerable and that is where sin goes to work. That inner turmoil, that inner struggle between right and wrong is caused by the invasion of sin. Paul described this struggle this way; “ Romans 7:15–25 (KJV 1900): *“15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. 17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. 20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. 22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and*

bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” We as followers of Christ are no different than Paul. We too have the same struggle, and like Paul, though wretched as he is, have been given the **Victory in Jesus.**

James in his Epistle Chapter 1 verse 15 warns us about sin “Then when lust hath been conceived, it bringeth forth sin, and sin when it hath finished bringeth forth death. The outcome with sin is bleak, dire, and if not careful, hopeless. But hear the words of our scripture for today: “51 Behold I show you a mystery; We Shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory,

55 O death where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Victory in Jesus!**