



The Christian Life Institute

Friday, April 10

Thank you for joining us today, as we continue our series, at the Christian Life Institute, presented through 15-minute encouraging messages three times per week, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 12:45 Central time, on practical ways to grow forward in Christ in uncertainty, unpredictability, and upheaval.

This message is entitled: Vanquishing Victor or Christ our Victor - Christus Victor

As humans in this fallen world we battle on many fronts. We battle the flesh. We battle the world and we battle Satan. Yet, we know from Scripture that we have the victory in Christ Jesus, He is our Christus Victor. “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57).

The reality of an on-going spiritual battle occurring in the world, that for now is a cosmic war zone, is a theme found throughout the Old and New Testaments. In Job 1:6, we see Satan as the enemy of God who brings suffering and temptation to Job. Later we see David as tempted by Satan to disobey God and number the nation (1 Chr 21:1). In the New Testament Paul calls Satan “the god” of this world” who “works to blind the minds of unbelievers (2 Corinthians 4:4). John describes the entire world as being “in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19), and Paul describes him as “the ruler of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2).

Even in the midst of this cosmic warfare (remember, Paul states in Ephesians 6:12 “for we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places”), we, as children of God can take hope in the power of the Gospel to free the redeemed from the debilitating effects of sin in this life. We can look to and know that Christ will restore all of creation to its pre-fall state when He comes again and sets up His Kingdom. Come quickly, Lord Jesus – Amen!

Christ is the Victor in this spiritual battle and we can rest in and take great hope in Him who is our Hope. On Monday, we shared that Christ is our ever-present help in time of need - in the here and now - in the moment. He also is our Eternal Hope and our Ultimate Victory. The words 'eyes up' to Triumphant Hope encompasses several great reminders on how then shall we live, including, aligning with Christ which produces an expectant eternal perspective which produces helpful Hope. As we choose to wait upon the Lord - knowing He is our source of strength, support, and sustenance we can focus our eyes, our minds, our hearts on our Risen Lord.

On this Good Friday, as we walk with Jesus to the Cross, we are reminded that the death of one man (Christ) won and continues to win the victory for all men. We have been redeemed by the blood of the lamb. We have been bought for a price (1 Corinthians 6:20). Just as through one man, Adam, all received death so we may ascend to life again through a Victorious One. When God through the incarnate Christ—a most holy and merciful Lord—steps down into the world in triumph and delivers salvation to men He freed us from the power of sin and death, gave us new life in Him, and restored us unto Himself.

Lewis Sperry Chafer, a great theologian writes, "but thanks be unto God, which gave us the victory through Lord Jesus Christ!" In 1 Chronicles 29:11-12, we read:

“Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.”

In 1 Corinthians 15:54-57, we read:

“When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is

¹ Charfer, Lewis Sperry, *He That is Spiritual*, 1914, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Zondervan).

the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

In John 19:30 we read, “When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”

The day we are glorified, when Christ comes again, will be a day of great victory because on that day our last enemy, death, will be destroyed, just as Scripture predicts in 1 Corinthians 15:25-26, “for he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.”. In the context of a discussion of the resurrection of our bodies when Christ returns, When our bodies are raised from the dead, we will experience complete victory over the death that came as a result of the fall of Adam and Eve. Then our redemption will be complete²

Let us choose today to celebrate the victory. While we grieve with the disciples over Jesus’ walk to the cross, let us remember these words from the Gospel of John 14:15-30:

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” ²³ Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent

² Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 828.

me. ²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.”

Let us glean from these Scriptures as we reflect on our Vanquishing Victor on this Holy Day:

- “If you love me, you will keep my commandments” – Let us choose to keep His commandments – His ways.
- “He has sent us a Helper who is with us forever - the Spirit of truth.” We have a Helper, the Holy Spirit, who will guide us into all Truth.
- “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him.” Let us choose to keep His Word and abide in His love.
- “The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” We have a Helper, Who is the Holy Spirit, Who guides us into all Truth and brings all Truth to remembrance.
- “I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father” – let us be imitators of Christ as He imitated the Father.
- “The ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me” – He has overcome the grave and has obtained the victory over Satan.

In this season, and life which is a journey of seasons, we as Christ-followers, have opportunities to, through His strength and His power reflect Him to a

broken and hurting world – so, let us persevere and come together, even when technology weary.

Let us agree together to:

“Walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

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