

Complete Victory

I've heard arguments against the gospel of grace that essentially went like this: Your belief system of the grace of God will not produce true victory. You don't have enough. Faith alone in Jesus does not fully prove complete victory - There must be something more you have to do, know, believe, practice, give up, or pick up. No way is victory going to be totally found in simple faith in Jesus. This is an attack against the grace of God, but this attack is not new. Nearly 2,000 years ago Christians were dealing with the same kinds of attacks against the faith, but the apostle Paul wrote a letter to the Church that says the opposite is true.

CHRISTIANS HAVE COMPLETE VICTORY.

Victory is a positional reality that Christians have right now. But you might wonder.. what exactly do we have victory over? What are we victorious over? Well, I want to show you 5 areas of victory Christians have, based on these 5 verses.

Area #1 - Christians have victory over the flesh. 2:11

[11] In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

Paul said Christians have been circumcised. This is all Christians, male and female. How is that possible? Because it's been done without hands. This is spiritual, not physical. Who did

this procedure? Jesus. This is a spiritual thing that Jesus has done to us. Physical circumcision involved cutting off flesh, but it represented a spiritual reality (Rom. 2:28-29; Jer. 4:4). What was the spiritual reality? It signaled that a person belongs to God. Why would circumcision demonstrate that? Because as circumcision is cutting away of a person's flesh. When a person truly belongs to God by faith, that person's fleshly sinful nature no longer controls him.

The flesh is a term used throughout the Bible to refer to our unregenerate, sinful nature - the fleshly nature (Gal. 5:16). We all have a sinful nature, and before we are saved by Christ, we live by our flesh. Our fleshly desires rule us. But for a Christian, Jesus has spiritually circumcised your heart. He's already done this. You have power over your sinful desires.

Some people accuse Christianity of promoting a license to sin, but in reality, it is a freedom from the control of sin. The barrier of our passions, lusts, desires, our flesh is taken away by Jesus.

Area #2 - Christians have victory over death. 2:12

[12] having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Death is separation. Ultimate death is separation from God. Death will separate us from God, but the barrier of death has been removed. Why? Because in the mind of Almighty God, a Christian has already died with Christ, been buried with Him,

but also raised with Him. We are so identified with Jesus in the mind of God that when He died on that cross, we died. When He was buried, we were buried. When He was raised, we were raised.

Baptism means to immerse - to be placed into. Baptism in the Bible always carries the idea of being identified with something or someone.

Is Colossians 2:12 talking about the ritual of water baptism? No. It's talking about spiritual baptism, just like Colossians 2:11 is talking about a circumcision made without hands (spiritual). This verse is talking about us having victory over death because we have been placed into the work of Christ on that cross. His work on the cross was credited to our account, and His resurrection is credited to our account.

Is Colossians 2:12 teaching that we become placed into His work of the cross and resurrection the moment we go through water ritual baptism? No. Why? Because of a very important phrase that we must not overlook in this verse: Through faith. Notice carefully, Paul does not say this occurred through water baptism. He says it occurs through faith!

Through your faith in the power of God who raised from the dead, you were baptized - placed into - His burial and His resurrection.

Area #3 - Christians have victory over sin. **2:13**

[13] And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

Whether you like it or not, this is what the Bible says about everyone one us in our unregenerate state. We were dead. 1) dead in our trespasses. 2) dead in the uncircumcision of our flesh.

God classified us being in sin. God saw us as living under the dominating control of our flesh - we lived to satisfy our sinful nature, but God made us alive together with Christ. Who did the work to make you alive? God. Who gets the credit? God. Dead people don't do anything, but God performed a resurrection in you. He gave you a second birth. He made you alive.

What happened when God made you alive? He forgave all your sins. He freed you from your sins. We have victory over sin itself. Sin no longer hinders us from God. It no longer creates a permanent barrier.

Area #4 - Christians have victory over the Law. **2:14**

[14] by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

When God forgave us through faith in Jesus, God in Christ 1) cancelled our debt. 2) removed the yoke of the Law 3) fully paid our penalty on the cross.

Our record of debt was cancelled. Cancelled means wiped off - wiped clean - erased. But it wasn't just the debt of our sins that were erased, the Law of Moses itself was cancelled. The legal demands of the Law that condemn us was erased. The barrier of God's Law was removed. The Law has no claim over the believer. It's been removed - set aside - out of the way - excommunicated. The Law no longer condemns us!

Jesus nailed that law to the cross with all its legal demands - its decrees - its requirements - its ordinances. Jesus took our record of debt. He put it on His shoulders. He let them nail Him to the cross. When He was nailed there our sins were nailed there. When He was nailed there that Law was nailed there. He paid our price in full. This is what Jesus did for us. We didn't do it. He did it.

Area #5 - Christians have victory over the enemies of God. **2:15**

[15] He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

There's our word of the day: Triumph - Victory. He won the victory, and when we are connected to Him through faith, we are victorious. Disarmed means to strip off. It means the rulers and authorities were stripped of their power against us. They have no ammunition against us. No charge to lay against us.

What does he mean by rulers and authorities? This phrase is used in the Bible to refer to the demonic forces of evil - Satan and his fallen angels - Satan and the demons (Eph. 6:12).

When Jesus went that cross, He won. It was a victory. Satan was defeated at the cross. The demonic world was defeated at the cross. Death could not hold Him in the grave. His death defeated death. He defeated the one who had the power of death (Heb. 2:14). He won. His sacrifice was a victory.

When God saved us, He delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son (Col. 1:13). He ripped us out of Satan's realm, out of darkness, out of his control, and gave us to Christ. Because Christ triumphed over the devil and the demonic world, we have victory over the enemies of God.

Christians have complete victory over the flesh, over death, over sin, over the Law, over the enemies of God.

What's lacking? Every area is covered. How can someone say that faith in Jesus who died for me and rose again doesn't provide complete victory?

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