

Victorious Christian Life introduction and overview

a study for Gulf Coast Baptist Church Wednesday night Discipleship Groups

Introduction

In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul emphasizes the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This achievement that is unique to history was intended to bring victory to believers. Paul ends the chapter by stating that Death is drowned in victory. How many believers understand that they are victors? Are they living their lives in a victorious way? The scriptures reveal the way that believers can be victorious in their daily lives. This same chapter gives the gospel for initial salvation that is to be believed. There is a gospel for initial salvation but there is other “good news” in the scriptures. Believers will face adversaries during their earthly sojourn. Scriptures give the believer a gospel whereby they can be “saved” from these enemies. The Scriptures also detail what is coming for the believer. A Future Salvation awaits the believer upon rapture or death. These tenses of salvation are important for the believer to understand so that there is no confusion.

Is there a difference between temptation and sin? This distinction is important for the believer to understand what he is to confess and what he simply needs to put out of his mind. The bible uses specific words for lust, temptations, and trials. Understanding these will help the believer navigate the battles he will fight.

What exists to keep the believer from victory here on earth? The believer faces three enemies that are provoking him to sin. The worst enemy resides within him. When Adam sinned, the sin nature took residence in man’s soul. Each father has passed this nature down to his children. But the scriptures give details how the believer can achieve victory over this enemy. Even though they have been delivered most believers suffer as a slave to their nature. The Evil One has been around for ages, and understands how to deceive the believer. Satan is the most deceptive enemy. Most of the work that man’s sin nature does is credited to the Devil. Satan has designed the world system and uses it to snare the believer, distracting him from seeing clearly the Desirous Will of God.

The scriptures tell the believer to Walk by the Spirit. Most believers do not understand the role of the Third Person of the Trinity in their lives. The scriptures tell the believer several actionable steps that will lead them to be “filled”. The Spirit must be yielded to so that He can produce fruit, which the believer can then direct towards the situations that call for it in their lives. Most believers simply do the “Christian things” that can sometimes be produced by the flesh. This leads to frustration as they never find the good works that are laid out for them (Eph 2:10). Believers should take the time and follow the path to find God’s perfect will for their lives. This will lead the believer to victory. There are things that are visible to others when the believer is spiritual and being matured.

The Triumph

In 2 Corinthians 2 Paul gives the picture of a general in a victorious parade. As the armies march through the city streets, they crush the flowers and wreaths that are cast before them. This gives off a sweet smell to those in view of the spectacle. This is how the believer’s

life should be. God has caused the believer to be victorious. But how many lives of believers are giving off that sweet smell for other believers, the unsaved world, and for the spirit beings? Are the lives of believers filled with anxiety, frustration, and discouragement? Do believers feel the power and connection that they should to the work of God in their lives? Or are they simply chasing fulfillment through what the world system has to offer them?

This course should be helpful for the believer to understand the things that he encounters in daily life. Most believers do not fully understand and put into practice the things in this course until they have been through it a few times. It is a good reminder for those who have been saved for a while as well as for new believers. Biblical knowledge must first be collected and understood (oida). Then it must be grasped and put into practice (gnosko). After several opportunities this knowledge can be fully mastered and it can govern the believer's life (epignosko).