

I. Introduction

A. God is a God of Victory.

1. He has never known defeat.
2. He has never lost a battle.
3. Defeat, loss, weakness, desperation do not exist in him.

B. There is no greater exemplification of His victory than the celebration of Easter – The Resurrection.

1. There are TWO major events that we commemorate at Easter:

- a. The Crucifixion – Jesus' death on the cross
- b. The Resurrection – His resurrection.
- c. **We could commemorate His death just like that of any other great person who lived in history – but the story would not be the same.**
- d. **What separates Jesus from all other religious figures is that he not only lived and died – but that HE LIVES:**
 - He overcame the grave.
 - He overcame death.
 - He overcame Hell.
 - The tomb, though sealed with a stone – could not hold him – HE WAS VICTORIOUS – He came out of the tomb!
- e. **This is victory!**

2. VICTORY

- a. Webster – overcoming – the overcoming of an enemy.
Achievement of mastery or success against odds or difficulty.
- b. A success in a struggle against difficulties or an obstacle
- c. Cambridge – an occasion when you win a game, competition, war, etc.

II. The Ultimate Victory

What is the ultimate victory? Many would say that it is the fact that Jesus came back from death. However, there is greater victory achieved through his resurrection than that of returning from the dead.

The Ultimate Victory is that His victory included us.

Romans 6:3-11 (NLT) – ³*Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? ⁴For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. ⁵Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. ⁶We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. ⁸And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. ⁹We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. ¹⁰When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. ¹¹So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus*

A. Baptized

1. Immersion – to submerge into – fully wet.
2. Here the picture isn't really about water baptism.
3. This speaks of our **SPIRITUALLY being immersed into Christ.**
 - a. Into His death
 - b. Into His burial
 - c. Into His resurrection
 - d. When He died – I was there – I died with Him.
 - e. When He arose – I was there – I arose to new life with Him

4. **2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (NKJV)** – ¹⁴*For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; ¹⁵and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. ¹⁶Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹**For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***

- a. God Is no longer keeping a record of sin against me.
- b. Jesus took my sin. Jesus became me sin.
- c. Yes, I have sinned.
- d. Yes, I am guilty before God.
- e. Yes, I should have paid the penalty for my sin.
- f. The price of my sin was so great – that death was the only means of justice. The wage of sin is death.
- g. WHEN JESUS DIED – by faith – I was in Him.
- h. BY FAITH – I died with him – he died – my death – for my sin – for my penalty – for my sentence.
- i. BY FAITH – WHEN HE AROSE – I AROSE WITH HIM – In his righteousness – cleansed – free – a new person.
- j. JUSTIFIED before God = just as if I had never sinned!
- k. IF I SIN after I get saved – HE Sits at the right hand of the father making intercession for us – a continual work – bringing us to the father – justified – cleansed and redeemed.

THIS IS THE ULTIMATE VICTORY – Not just that Jesus died and arose – but that when He arose, WE AROSE with HIM

Today is not only a celebration of HIS resurrection but it is a celebration of OUR resurrection!

- Yes, He was dead and arose to life.

- *But We were dead in him – and have arisen to life!*
- *This is the ultimate victory.*

B. Understanding the FALL

1. In the garden God created a perfect creation.
2. Man transgressed God's law thus turning himself over to the power and authority of Satan.
3. Everything BAD that we witness throughout this life or on this planet takes root back to the FALL in the garden.
4. The WHY question - the answer is the FALL.
5. Remember, Satan is referred to as the god of this world.
6. Man made Satan the god of this world
God never created Satan for this.
The heavens belong to the Lord.
The earth was made for the sons of man to have dominion over. Man gave it to Satan!
7. The most tragic day that ever occurred on this planet from the time of creation to now – is THE FALL.
It would look as though everything God had envisioned for man would be lost; it would look as though Satan had gained master over God's prize possession man – the only one that is created in His very own likeness and image!
It would look as though man would be doomed to stay in this fallen state – never being reconciled back to God – Doomed not only to physical death but to spiritual death – eternal separation from God. Doomed to judgment against His sin!
8. **BUT GOD** – in all His wisdom – in all His glory – had a plan!

Genesis 3:15 (AMP) – *“And I will put enmity (open hostility) Between*

you and the woman, And between your seed (offspring) and her Seed; He shall [fatally] bruise your head, And you shall [only] bruise His heel.

Revelation 13:8 (NKJV) – *All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

9. This ultimate victory is –

That God – *knowing that Man would sin against him – created us anyway.*

That God – *knowing that man would cast himself beneath the authority of Satan – still created us – but also with that creation had a plan that would bring us back to himself – Forgiving us – cleansing us – redeeming us!*

That God – *would literally place us into Himself/His son!*

As far as God is concerned –

- *When Jesus died – our old sinful self-died!*
- *When Jesus arose – we arose – New – no longer bound to SATAN of his **plan!***
- **Now adjoined to Christ and HIS PLAN – NEW CREATION LIFE.**
- **Romans 8:2 (NKJV)** – *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

III. Conclusion

A. Jesus died for all.

B. No one has to remain under the authority of darkness.

C. Jesus came to restore LIFE to God's creation.

D. It is a journey of faith.

- 1. Faith in Christ!**
- 2. Faith in God's plan of restoration and salvation!**
- 3. Faith that in Christ we died at the cross!**
- 4. Faith that in Christ we have new life!**
- 5. Faith in Christ for daily living!**
- 6. Faith in Christ when we mess up!**
- 7. Looking unto Jesus the author and the finisher of our faith.**
 - a. The only hope is in Jesus.
 - b. We cannot restore ourselves.
 - c. We cannot save ourselves.
 - d. We can only offer ourselves.
- 8. The only victory for us – is the ultimate victory achieved in HIM.**

Hebrews 2:3 (NKJV) – *How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?*