

Victory!



Dear Friends,

Whenever we celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior, the words of the Apostle Paul often come to mind, found in the “resurrection chapter:” *When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality; then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”* —1 Corinthians 15:54

Death has been swallowed up in victory is our triumphant song! Choirs in heaven sing praises to Jesus, our risen Lord. Here on Earth we also sing to Jesus and we joyfully remind each other that he is risen! Resurrection Sunday is the grand final climactic tribute to Jesus because of his transcendent, all encompassing, once and for all victory over death and the grave.

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Death has been swallowed up in victory! Naturally, we know the final fulfillment of that promise is yet in the future. Yes, we still mourn and grieve in the face of death. Jesus himself wept at the tomb of Lazarus. But we do not weep as if death has the final say. As Christ-followers we are on Jesus’ team, and even though there is still time on the clock in this game of life in which we are engaged, Team Jesus is so far ahead of death and the grave, we know that we have already won!

Of course, as we follow Jesus, the captain of our salvation, we do so living in our mortal tents of flesh. Death and the grave troubles and disturbs us, but *we do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope* (1 Thessalonians 4:13). We are Christ-followers, and we know that the final victory has been won. The words of Paul encourage us: *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body* (2 Corinthians 4:7-11).

This is the great promise we hold on to – all made possible by the fact that Jesus is risen!

Larry

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