

Announcements

- 1) Welcome & Connect Cards (me)
- 2) Giving (me)
- 3) Financial Report (DC & Mark)
- 4) Honoring Michelle (DC & me)
- 5) Praying over sermon (DC)

1. ([1] Introduction Our Longing for Victory)

2. My China story with photos with the V sign

3. Have you ever noticed how much of life is framed around the search for victory?

- a. We want victory over our weight, so we buy the newest diet plan.
- b. We want victory over our stress, so we download mindfulness apps.
- c. We want victory over our finances, so we look for the right budget program.
- d. We want victory over our loneliness, so we get on “social” media.
- e. We want victory over our failures, so we turn to the latest self-help book.

4. And yet, for all the searching, so many people — even many Christians — many of you in this room – still feel like they live in defeat.

- a. Defeated by sin, defeated by shame, defeated by circumstances, defeated by fear, depression, anxiety, addictions, disappointed and disillusioned by the way life’s turned out.

5. What if I told you that God has already given us a book that shows us how to live not just forgiven, but free?

- a. Not just saved for eternity, fire insurance that will kick in at the end – but victorious, full, and free right now?
- b. That book, the real treasure of the Bible,
- c. [2] is the book of Romans.

6. All of this book is God breathed. It’s all good and valuable!

- a. But it’s not all equally important.
- b. We could get along pretty well without Obadiah. Nahum. Philemon.
- c. But without Romans, we’d be in a world of hurt.
- d. This is perhaps the most important book in all the Bible, especially for us in the modern west.
- e. It lays out clearly and systematically what the Gospel is, why it’s good news for us, and how it empowers us to live a victorious life through Christ.

7. For centuries, God has used this book to ignite revivals and transform lives:

- a. Early church father St. Augustine was converted reading Romans 13.
- b. Martin Luther rediscovered salvation by faith reading Romans 1 and ignited the protestant revolution
- c. Even our denomination’s namesake, John Wesley’s heart was “strangely warmed” hearing Luther’s preface to Romans.

8. And starting today, we're going to walk together through this letter together.

- a. Not as a dry theology lecture, but as God's living word to us
- b. The true treasure map -- leading us to a life of **victory in Christ**.
 - i. The life we long for.
 - ii. The life you were made for.

9. So let's orient ourselves:

- a. **Romans was actually a long letter written around A.D. 57 by the apostle Paul.**
 - i. While he was still living in Corinth.
- b. **Paul had never visited the Christians in Rome**, and neither, apparently had any of the other apostles
 - i. The church there most likely began when Jews came to Christ at Pentecost in Jerusalem and brought the faith back with them to Rome.
 - ii. And we know that the church there eventually became a mixture of Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews).
- c. **And so Paul had often longed to come to them.**
 - i. He wanted to encourage them, teach them, unify them, and use Rome as a launching pad to bring the gospel all the way to Spain.
- d. **Paul was about to head to Jerusalem** to take an offering he'd collected from a number of churches to help the church there.
 - i. Jerusalem was NOT a safe place for Paul.
 - 1. He was being sought by the Jewish leaders.
 - ii. So one might guess he was thinking about tying up loose ends just in case things didn't go well in Jerusalem.
 - iii. So he wrote the Roman church a letter, telling them everything they'd need to know in order to live a full Christian life -- just in case.

10. Romans is his most complete explanation of the gospel

- a. ...what it is, why we need it, what it does, and how it changes everything.

11. Our series is called *Walking in Victory through Romans*.

- a. Because Romans doesn't just tell us how to be saved from our sins,
 - i. saved from judgement and hell;
- b. it shows us how to live in the full victory Christ has already won now
 - i. a life of peace, joy, freedom from sin, and overflowing mission to others.

12. We've talked a lot over the last year or so about God's call on all of us to be ministers in our lives: disciplemakers who reach out to our neighbors and beyond.

- a. We are a family of imperfect people, called to live on MISSION TOGETHER.
- b. **Tru Community Church exists to welcome, equip, and send disciplemakers of Jesus into the world, beginning with our neighbors.**
- c. Matthew 28 tells us as much: Jesus tells his disciples and all who would come to faith through their message to go make disciples everywhere.
 - i. Not a call for pastors or church staff. It's Jesus' call for every believer to obey.

13. Obedience to God and his call is a good thing!

- a. But obedience and duty will only take you so far.
- b. Eventually you'll need something **far more powerful, perpetual, personal** to enable you to live this Christian life on mission.

14.[3] IRON MAN: The ARC REACTOR that powers mission, is a victorious life in Jesus Christ.

- a. **The Gospel** alive in you.
- b. Surging with lifesaving power that begins by saving your OWN life,
 - i. then powers your new life to soar on mission to save others.

15. That's what we're going after together this fall.

a. **[4] We'll break the series down into 3 main sections:**

- i. **The Gospel We Stand On (1–4)** — Why we need it and how we receive it.
- ii. **The Gospel We Live In (5–8)** — Victory, peace, and joy in the Spirit.
- iii. **The Gospel for the World (9–16)** — God's mission to all people.

b. **We'll spend the most time in section 2: chapters 5-8!**

- i. The arc reactor of the victorious Christian life.
- ii. The pure gold core in the center of this treasure of a Book.

16. Now, look with me at how Paul begins.

a. **[5] Today we're going to be camping out in the first 7 verses of Romans 1**

b. In these opening verses, he sets the tone for everything to come:

17.[6] Victory begins with Belonging (to Jesus, v.1).

18. "Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God — ..."

19. It was common for ancient letters to begin this way:

- a. laying out who the author is by listing their credentials and authority.
- b. **But notice how Paul twists this.**
 - i. He doesn't actually start by flashing his own credentials.
 - ii. Look again: he starts by declaring who owns him.
 - 1. He is a servant — literally, a bondsman — of Christ Jesus.
 - 2. That's who he is
- c. **Already highlighting the paradox: victory comes through surrender.**
 - i. Victory doesn't begin with trying harder.
 - ii. Victory begins with belonging.
 - iii. With saying, "My life is not my own. I surrender. Now I belong to Jesus."
- d. It's an identity shift from self to servant.
 - i. **Victory in life isn't about WHO you are, but WHOSE you are.**

20. **Illustration: Think about a soldier in the army.**

- a. A Soldier **wins no victories on his own.**
- b. His victories come because he belongs to an army,
 - i. under the command of a great general.
- c. In the same way, our victory comes because we belong to Jesus,
 - i. the conquering King. The Lord of ALL!

21.[7] Victory rests in Christ's triumph (vv.2–4).

22.² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures³ regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David,⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

23. This gospel isn't a new fad.

- a. It wasn't even a new thing BACK IN PAUL'S day –
 - i. writing this 25 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- b. The GOSPEL – Good News -- was actually promised much longer ago.**
 - i. From the very beginning pages of the Old Testament, in fact.
 - ii. And all throughout the rest of the Scriptures.

24. And at the center of this long-foretold Good News is Jesus:

- a. **The truly human**, son of David (through Mary);
- b. **The truly divine**, Son of God (through the Holy Spirit).
- c. His resurrection is the declaration to everyone,
 - i. on earth and in the heavenly realms,
 - ii. that He is the long foretold victorious Messiah King!

25. Brothers, sisters, contrary to what you've been told, your victory is not online.

- a. It's not in the newest book.
- b. Or Podcast.
- c. Or diet.
- d. Or mental health practice.
- e. It's not in the gym.
- f. Or in marriage. Or singleness.
- g. Or our job or bank account.
- h. It's not in the likes we get on Instagram.
- i. Nor is it even in yourselves.

26. Our victory is in Jesus our Lord.

- a. **Sin and death themselves were defeated at the cross and the empty tomb.**
- b. And we get THAT as an inheritance:
 - i. beloved by God,
 - ii. indwelt by his Holy Spirit,
 - iii. set apart for eternal life
 - 1. that begins now and continues in our own resurrection
 - 2. to a renewed Earth.
 - 3. Always with God and those who love him.
 - 4. Death and sin and sorrow and sickness, and pain and decay conquered and removed forever,
- c. **Because his victory is OUR victory!**

27. **Illustration: Imagine a sports team that has already clinched the championship.** Every game after that is played in light of the victory already secured. That's the Christian life: we play the season knowing the trophy is already ours in Christ.

28.[8] Victory calls us into mission (v.5).

29.⁵ **Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.**

a. Gentiles (nations) – everyone else who isn't a Jew

30. Paul says: I've been given grace and a calling, not to keep the gospel to myself, not to keep it just for the Jewish people, but to spread it to EVERYONE – the Gentiles, all the nations.

a. **Just like Peter talked about last Sunday!**

b. **What God's plan had been all along**, for the Jews to be God's missionaries to the whole world!

c. But what they failed in, Jesus Himself secured.

d. The Good News of Victory available through Jesus is for everyone!

i. And that's the mission.

31. **Because Victory propels us outward.**

32. The victorious life is not just personal freedom — it's a life on mission.

a. Our joy in Christ inherently overflows in witness and sacrificial love.

b. **A defeated, joyless Christian is practically silent;**

i. but a victorious, joy-filled Christian cannot help but share.

ii. **And it's victorious Christians that really catch people's attention!**

33. **Illustration:**

a. **In 300 BC, ancient Greek mathematician Archimedes was taking a bath**

i. in the city of Syracuse (Not KS)

ii. when he realized that he could use water displacement to determine the purity of the King's gold crown

1. (which the King suspected was not actually pure gold).

iii. He was so excited by this discovery

1. (what is now known as Archimedes' principle)

iv. that he jumped out of his tub and ran naked through the streets shouting

EUREKA – I HAVE FOUND IT!

b. That's what the gospel does in us.

i. Though I'd suggest at least grabbing a towel.

34.[9] Victory is our birthright (in Christ, vv.6–7).

35.⁶ **And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.**

⁷ **To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his saints:**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

36. Notice those words: **called, belonging, loved, saints.**

a. That's who you are in Christ.

b. **So many Christians just don't realize the truth about who they are in Christ!**

- i. You're not just a church attender.
 - ii. There's no such thing as second-class Christians.
 - iii. You're Not barely hanging on.
 - iv. Not defeated sinners limping along.
 - v. A worm who's constantly failing, unworthy of the love of God.
- c. But Loved by the creator God of the universe!
 - i. **Beloved!**
 - 1. **It's both a name and a command.**
 - 2. Be. Loved.
- d. You are loved. So BE LOVED.
 - i. **It's what's written on the inside of my wedding ring.**
 - 1. The meaning of my name, David
 - ii. But it's also been the message I've most needed to believe all my life.
 - iii. So often wondering, asking, unconsciously, AM I LOVED? Am I accepted?
 - iv. YES. I am.
 - 1. And in Christ, SO ARE YOU.

37. God's also set you apart for a special purpose and calling.

- a. **To Belong and Be-loved by God**
- b. And become like him in your living
- c. As you tell others about the Good News of victory offered to them too

38. Beloved and Belonging to Jesus.

- a. That's your identity.
- b. That's your birthright.
 - i. **Holy. Not because of your righteousness, but because of HIS.**
 - ii. And you. Are. His.
- c. Beloved and adopted with full rights as an heir.

39. Illustration: Imagine an orphan child adopted out of squalor and neglect

- a. into a wealthy and loving family.
- b. The child's name and identity is instantly changed.
- c. Not because of anything they did, but because of who their Father is!
- d. They don't have to earn their place.
- e. They don't have to buy their inheritance.
- f. They simply live out who they already are.
 - i. In joy and peace that overflows in victorious living.
- g. That's what it means to belong to Jesus.

40. Is that your experience?

- a. If not, lean in as we continue to study God's victorious word to us through the book of Romans.
- b. **Let that disconnect and longing form itself into a prayer right now.**
- c. Ask God to show you how to live a victorious Christian life.

41. [10] Application: Walking in Victory

42. So what does this mean for us today as we launch into this series?

43.3 Main truths from this first chunk of Romans:

a. [11] Victory is your birthright in Christ.

- i. You don't have to live in defeat.
- ii. Sin does not define you.
- iii. Shame does not bind you.
- iv. Christ has already triumphed
 - 1. And given you it as your inheritance!

b. [12] Victory is your fuel for mission.

- i. When you taste the joy of belonging to Jesus,
- ii. you will naturally overflow into mission
 - 1. loving neighbors, sharing Christ.

c. [13] Victory is our church's calling.

- i. This fall, we're not just studying Romans;
 - 1. we're stepping more fully into the life Christ already secured for us.
 - 2. A life of peace, joy, freedom, and witness.
 - 3. Of Victory that pierces the darkness and changes lives.
- ii. And I'm confident God is inviting us in Tru Community Church into living more fully out of that Gospel than we've yet known.

44. Action steps:

a. [14] If you've never accepted the free gift of Victory offered to us through Jesus Christ, I encourage you to take that step today!

- i. Admit your need for a savior
- ii. Believe that Jesus is that Savior
- iii. And receive the free gift of the Holy Spirit, who will help you understand God's word, connect personally with God, and live an increasingly victorious life.

b. [15] Prayerfully take stock of your life and notice both where you've grown in victorious living and where you're struggling to live in Christ's victory.

- i. Write them down in your journal or on the back of your notes page (catch one on your way out) during quiet times with the Lord this week.
- ii. Thank him for what he's already been doing in your life
- iii. And ask Him to help you hope again that real change and freedom can happen.

c. [16] Begin reading through Romans on your own.

- i. In a journal, write a paragraph or two our double spaced.
- ii. Then go back and make observations, notes, questions.
- iii. Draw a line, then write whatever comes to mind as you reflect on that section.
- iv. Let your reflections morph into prayers.

45. Each Sunday through this fall season, we are going to walk step by step through this letter, discovering together that the victorious life in Christ is not a distant hope, but can be your present reality.

a. Now that's TRULY GOOD NEWS!

46. *Let's walk in victory together this fall season and beyond!*

47. CLOSING PRAYER

48. [17] Communion

49. We'll **come now and celebrate the victory** that Jesus Christ won for us through his life, death, and resurrection -- This is Good News for all of us!

50. **Come and take these elements** which help us remember and celebrate our victory in Him

51. **The bread** reminds us that his Body, sacrificed for us, gives us victory over sin, for the death he died in the flesh, he died to sin for all who would believe in Him

52. **And the cup** reminds us that his blood, shed for us, seals for us a new covenant between man and God, not based on our righteousness, but on his own!

a. So we're brought near to him to live a victorious and reconnect life with our Creator both now and forever!

53. Let's come and remember. Celebrate his victory that's become ours.



WALKING IN VICTORY



WALKING IN **V**ICTORY
THROUGH ROMANS



WALKING IN VICTORY THROUGH ROMANS

- 1. The Gospel We Stand On (1–4)**
 - Why we need it and how we receive it
- 2. The Gospel We Live In (5–8)**
 - **Victory**, peace, and joy in the Spirit
- 3. The Gospel for the World (9–16)**
 - God's mission to all people



ROMANS 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God – ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. ⁶ And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his saints:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.



VICTORY BEGINS WITH BELONGING

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God – ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith. ⁶ And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

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VICTORY RESTS IN CHRIST'S TRIUMPH

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VICTORY CALLS US INTO MISSION

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VICTORY IS OUR BIRTHRIGHT

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APPLICATIONS: WALKING IN VICTORY



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APPLICATIONS: WALKING IN VICTORY

1. Victory is your birthright.
2. Victory is your fuel for mission.



APPLICATIONS: WALKING IN VICTORY

1. Victory is your birthright.
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3. Victory is our church's calling.



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→ **Accept** the free gift of victory through Jesus.



APPLICATIONS: WALKING IN VICTORY

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2. Victory is your fuel for mission.
3. Victory is our church's calling.

→ **Accept** the free gift of victory through Jesus.

→ Write down both where you've **grown** in victorious living and where you're **struggling** to live in victory.



APPLICATIONS: WALKING IN VICTORY

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- **Accept** the free gift of victory through Jesus.
- Write down both where you've **grown** in victorious living and where you're **struggling** to live in victory.
- **Begin reading** through Romans on your own.



COMMUNION

