



2016: Week 13

Sunday, March 27th 2016

"Victory in Jesus"

1 Corinthians 15:56-57

"⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; ⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (NASB).

This past Sunday we celebrated what is called Resurrection Sunday or Easter Sunday. We don't just celebrate the day in and of itself, but we celebrate what occurred on the day. From Scripture we know what occurred on this day, and it is quite possibly the greatest day in all of history. **It is the day Jesus rose from the dead!** Because Jesus rose from the grave, you can have hope in a world that seems hopeless. No matter how frustrated you feel or how discouraging your circumstances may be, know this– *if you have Jesus, you have victory!*

1. READ Acts 2:22-24

THIS WAS NO ACCIDENT! The fact that Jesus was betrayed, handed over, and nailed to a cross was no surprise to God. It was actually part of His plan. God knew that Jesus' death was the only possible way mankind could be saved. The next part of the story was also part of God's plan: Jesus' resurrection. The Father knew that it would be "impossible for (Jesus) to be held" in the power of death. Jesus' blood took the full force of the eternal penalty for man's sins and still come out victorious.

2. In his sermon on Sunday, John contrasted Adam and Jesus. The Bible presents each as a representative head. Whether they know it or not, every person who has ever lived starts life under the headship of Adam. Only those who make a *decision* to trust in Jesus ever change to a different headship.

- How is it that everyone starts life under the headship of Adam?
- How can you make Jesus your representative head?
- In what ways do you receive victory in Jesus? (*Hint: Think **BOTH** Big-Picture/Eternity **AND** Here-and-now/Day-to-day*)

3. In 1939 just two years before his death, Eugene Bartlett wrote a hymn called, *Victory in Jesus*. As you close the devotion today, think about the words from the first verse and chorus of this song:

Verse 1

*I heard an old, old story,
How a Savior came from glory,
How He gave His life on Calvary
To save a wretch like me;
I heard about His groaning,
Of His precious blood's atoning,
Then I repented of my sins
And won the victory.*

Chorus

*O victory in Jesus,
My Savior, forever.
He sought me and bought me
With His redeeming blood;
He loved me ere I knew Him
And all my love is due Him,
He plunged me to victory,
Beneath the cleansing flood.*

FAMILY PRAYER: Thank God for the victory you have in Jesus! Ask Him to remind you of that victory when you need it.