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I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

- a. Last week we talked about the battle we must face as a Christian in our message "Keep on the Firing Line". This week we want to focus on the Victory we are assured in this battle. We began last week by quoting an old hymn "Keep on the Firing Line." So we will begin this week by quoting another old Hymn which speaks of our Victory in this battle, "Victory in Jesus"
 - i. 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.

I heard about His healing,
Of His cleansing pow'r revealing.
How He made the lame to walk again
And caused the blind to see;
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus,
Come and heal my broken spirit,"

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And somehow Jesus came and bro't To me the victory.

Repeat Chorus

I heard about a mansion
He has built for me in glory.
And I heard about the streets of gold
Beyond the crystal sea;
About the angels singing,
And the old redemption story,
And some sweet day I'll sing up there
The song of victory.
(Author: Eugene Bartlett, 1939)

b. What kind of victory are we promised?

II. <u>VICTORY OVER SIN</u>

- a. The first Victory that a Christian experiences is Victory over Sin. That is what becoming a Christian is all about, receiving victory over our sin through Jesus Christ.
- b. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 2 Cor 5:21 (KJV)
- c. Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. 1 Peter 2:24-25 (KJV)
- d. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.1 John 1:7-9 (KJV)

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III. VICTORY OVER FEAR

- a. As sin is defeated we then can defeat fear.
- b. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. Romans 8:10-18 (KJV)
- c. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 1 John 4:17-18 (KJV)
- d. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27 (KJV)
- e. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. 9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. Phil 4:6-9 (KJV)

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IV. VICTORY OVER THE WORLD

- *a*. This world system which ignores the things of God and attempts to mold us into its image.
- b. Who runs this world? (Satan is the Ruler of this World system, He and the world are in Rebellion against God, the rightful ruler of the world, see verses below)
 - i. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him. Matt 4:8-11 (KJV)
 - ii. Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged John 16:11 (KJV)
 - iii. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Eph 6:12 (KJV)
- c. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. John 16:33 (KJV)
- d. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? 1 John 5:4-5 (KJV)

V. VICTORY OVER THE DEVIL

- a. Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. Heb 2:14-15 (KJV)
- b. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7 (KJV)

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- c. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8 (KJV)
- d. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 1 John 4:4 (KJV)
- e. 10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev 2:10 (KJV)
- f. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Rev 12:10-11 (KJV)
- q. "A Mighty Fortress is our God"

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevaling. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.

Dost ask who that may be?

Christ Jesus, it is he;

Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same,

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and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.

The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth; the Spirit and the gifts are ours, thru him who with us sideth.

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill;

God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.

(Martin Luther, 1529, originally written in German)

VI. <u>VICTORY OV</u>ER DEATH

- a. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. John 11:25-26 (KJV)
- b. 1 COR 15:26
 - i. The last enemy that we must face is death. Commanders in Civil War used to tell their soldiers that "Home was beyond that hill" pointing to the hill on which the enemy was entrenched and they were going to have to attack. So we have to go through the enemy stronghold of death in order to get home.
- c. 1 Cor 15:42-58
 - *i.* Promise of Victory over this foul enemy. Our labor is not in vain in the Lord.

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VII. CONCLUSION

- a. We are promised Victory, we are not promised that we will not have a battle. On the contrary we are warned that we will have many battles and they will be fierce but we are assured of ultimate victory.
- b. We can avoid some of these struggles by "surrendering" to the enemy and "giving up the fight". Better to "Keep on the Firing Line" and face the enemy and as Jesus told the church in Revelation to "Be faithful until death, and you shall receive a crown of Life"
- c. "Thanks be to God who gives us the Victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"