

The Undefeated One

*Sorrow filled the air that Friday afternoon
When Jesus bore the crushing weight of death
Crowned with thorns He bowed His head in agony
As darkness fell He took His final Breath*

*But Sunday morning broke with resurrection light
And hope would spring eternal with the day
As angels shouted "He is risen like He said"
The Stone was rolled away as if to say*

*Grave where is your victory, Death where is your sting
The tomb forever empty declares that He is King
Sin your curse is broken for what can overcome
Jesus the undefeated one, oh, the undefeated one*

Above are the lyrics from this year's Easter musical titled *Jesus the Undefeated One*. We hope to perform it for our church and community on Palm Sunday – March 28. There is a great deal of defeat in our world today. Discouragement, lack of hope is in epidemic proportions. It is pervasive, from our cities to school campuses there is a very dark spirit. We find ourselves in a social climate that dwells on the negative things in life. I am happy to report that **IN CHRIST WE CAN HAVE VICTORY THROUGH THE UNDEFEATED ONE!**

I am a simple guy. Most of my family grew up in the south and I guess to a great extent that southern mentality is still part of my makeup. Most people are happy and pleased if they have their pantry full, a roof over their head, and the family healthy and safe. Many would say that is a rather naive way of looking at life. That might be, but I want you to know that it is also a biblical attitude. Paul challenged Timothy: ***"But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that."*** (1st Timothy 6:8)

What does it take for us to be content? Do we measure our contentment by comparing our lives with the people next door or to the latest commercials on TV? As I already said, I realize that I am a simple guy, but I know that Jesus loves me. Jesus' entire life was a sacrifice, leaving perfection and to walk the way of suffering. That was the life of Jesus, wasn't it? He gave every bit of Himself to others in His daily life then He paid for our lives with His own. It's easy to be so familiar with the Gospel that if we aren't careful, we devalue it. But the power of the resurrection should never be forgotten. We must remember that because of Jesus' sacrifice, we are triumphant.

1st Corinthians 15:57 says, ***"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*** What does it mean to be victorious? When a team wins their game they declare they were victorious. When an army conquers their enemy they are victorious. Sure those are definitions of victory. But, the passage that precedes Paul's declaration in vs. 57 describes our Savior, Jesus Christ's victory over sin, death and the grave. According to vs. 26 He was completely victorious in defeating the last enemy. **(1st Corinthians 15:26) *"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."***

The victory that we have in Christ is far greater than any earthly victory. In our lost condition, we were not preparing or getting ready. We were losers from the get go, totally gone astray and undone. We were the defeated ones with the foot of the enemy on our throat. Without Christ, the question is not what will happen to us when we leave this world. Without Christ we were lost and condemned. Jesus' sacrifice did not only give us a way to Heaven, it gave us a way to live in joy. Remember Paul's words when he said, ***"For me to live is Christ, but to die is gain!"*** (Philippians 1:27) Praise God we are not bound by sin nor are we defeated in death. God could have saved us any other way, but He chose to do it through sacrifice of the Undefeated One, Jesus.

Victorious in Christ,

Bro. Andrew