The Three Cheers Of Christ

Intro: *Cheer* is used only eight times in the New Testament. Four of these are used in the accounts of Christ’s life. Christ, on three occasions, tells others to “be of good cheer.” Let us study these and learn some lessons from them.

I. Thy Sins Be Forgiven

A. Mat. 9:2 “And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.”

B. Background:
   1. This is a man who is sick of the palsy.
   2. He cannot walk.
   3. His friends bring him to Jesus.

C. Jesus tells him to be of good cheer.
   1. If we look at his physical situation we would be tempted to say that he had nothing to be joyous about.
   2. Notice what Jesus did not say to be joyous about:
      a. Having his palsy removed
      b. That he would be able to walk
      c. He would inherit a lot of money, etc.

D. With the forgiveness of sins comes joy.
   1. Acts 2:41 “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”
   2. Acts 8:39 “And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”
   3. Acts 16:33-34 “And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. 34And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.”
   4. 1 Pet. 1:6 (2-9) “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. 3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”

E. Joy does not depend on physical circumstances.

II. It Is Jesus

A. Jesus’ statement:
   1. Mat. 14:27 “But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.”
   2. Mark 6:50 “For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.”
B. On this occasion the disciples were scared.
1. Jesus comes to them walking upon the water.
2. They thought He was a spirit and cried out for fear.
3. Often we are scared or fearful.

C. Jesus tells them to be of good cheer because He was there.
1. Companionship with God brings happiness and joy.
   a. 1 John 1:4-7 “And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: “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.”
   b. When we abide in Christ; John 15:11 “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.”
2. Companionship with God cannot be unless we have forgiveness of sins.
   a. Isa. 59:1-2 “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”
   b. 1 Pet. 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

III. Jesus Has Overcome The World
A. John 16:33 “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.”

B. In Christ we have peace.
1. John 14:27 “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.”
2. Rom. 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”
3. Phi. 4:7 “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
4. We have peace:
   a. With God
   b. With self
   c. With others
   d. With circumstances

C. We have victory in Christ, thus we can be happy or joyous.
1. It is found in Christ.
   a. Rom. 8:37 “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”
   b. 1 Cor. 15:57 “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
   c. 1 John 4:4 “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.”
   d. Rev. 17:14 “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”
2. The person who has forgiveness of sins through Christ, thus having companionship with Christ, is the one who has victory in Christ.
   a. 1 John 5:4-5 “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. ‘Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?’
   b. Rev. 21:7 “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”
   c. This is an eternal victory.
      (1) Luke 10:20 “Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”
      (2) Rev. 3:5, 21 “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.... 21To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

D. This victory is in Christ.
   1. Notice what we have in Christ.
      a. All spiritual blessings; Eph. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”
      b. Redemption; forgiveness of sins;
         (1) Eph. 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”
         (2) Col. 1:14 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”
      c. No condemnation; Rom. 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”
      d. New Creature; 2 Cor. 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
      e. Child of God; Gal. 3:26 “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”
      f. Salvation; 2 Tim. 2:10 “Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”
      g. Victory over death, thus blessed; Rev. 14:13 “And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”
   2. Notice how we get into Christ.
      a. Rom. 6:3-4 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 3Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”
      b. Gal. 3:27 “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Conclusion: Only by being in Christ do we have the true joy available to us. Are you in Christ?