Victory Through Christ

Intro: 1 Corinthians 15:57 “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” At the beginning of this chapter Paul had been emphasizing that which is to be preached to all men: the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. 1 Cor. 15:1-4 “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures;”

2. From this foundation he then goes into one of the greatest discussions recorded in the Scriptures concerning the resurrection of Christ. 1 Cor. 15:13-18 “But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.”

a. Because Christ was raised, death has no hold over the Christian.

b. 1 Cor. 15:55 “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

b. 1 Cor. 15:57 “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

d. The conclusion: 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

I. “But Thanks Be To God.”

A. Col. 3:15 “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

B. Yes, how very much God is to be thanked for all we have—how thankful each of us should be.

1. Physical; James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

2. Spiritual; 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:”

3. cf. Psa. 116:12 “What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?”

C. The victorious life is one of thankfulness.

II. “Which Giveth Us The Victory”

A. There is a ring to the word victory that is appealing to all of us.

1. We like victory—we seek victory.

2. Whether it be in a war, on the football, baseball, or basketball field.

B. But Paul is here speaking of spiritual victory; the victory that comes through our Lord Jesus Christ.
III. What Is This Victory That Is Our's Through Christ?

A. Victory Over Sin.
1. John 1:29 “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”
2. Luke 24:46-47 “And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: “And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
3. Acts 10:43 “To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”
4. Acts 13:38-39 “Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”
5. Eph. 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”
6. Col. 1:14 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”
7. 1 Cor. 15:2 “By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.”

B. Victory Over Life.
1. Sorrows, pains, trials, cares, difficulties.
2. Mat. 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
3. Mark 10:29-30 “And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, 30But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethrens, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”
4. Psa. 37:25 “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”
5. Mat. 7:11 “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”
6. John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”
7. John 16:24 “Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”
8. Rom. 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”
9. 1 Pet. 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

C. Victory Over Death.
1. Actually this was what Paul was discussing in the text.
2. 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.”

D. Victory In Heaven.
1. John 14:1-3 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”
2. Rev. 22:3 “And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him.”

3. Mat. 25:31-46 (esp. vs. 46 “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”)

E. 1 John 5:4 “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

Conclusion: This victory is only through Christ.

1. John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

2. Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”