



Volume 11, No. 11, November, 2023



Victory in Jesus

*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.*

*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,"
And somehow Jesus came and brought
To me the victory.*

*I heard about a mansion
He has built for me in glory,
And I heard about the street 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.*

Refrain:

*Oh, 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.*

WORDS: E. M. Bartlett (w. 1939)

MUSIC: E. M. Bartlett (w. 1939)

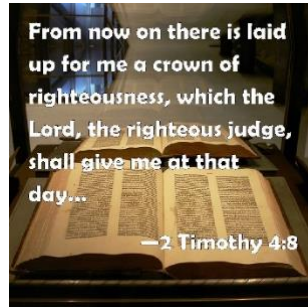


V-I-C-T-O-R-Y!

High School was at least an eon ago for me, but I still remember cheerleaders leading the victory chant. It was intended to inspire the team on the floor or field and to incite the crowd into loudly supporting the team. Victory for me once meant winning a spelling bee or scholarship. Now my life goal is the eternal crown for the saved.

In today's world, victory means winning a race or winning a game. Victories are often signified with medals, ribbons, trophies, crowns, or scholarships. These may be in athletic competitions, beauty pageants, spelling bees, or for being the best student citizen. We see the joy and excitement of Olympic athletes who win medals. They often run a victory lap or jump up and down in joy and pride. Victory is worth celebrating!

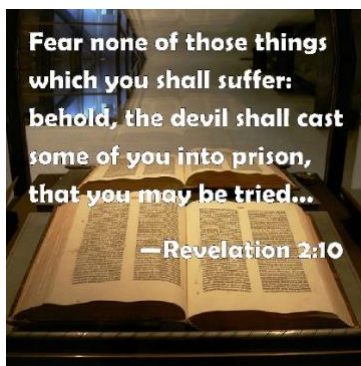
At least four of the apostles wrote of crowns. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 4:8 of the **crown of righteousness**, and Peter wrote of the **crown of glory**, 1 Peter 5:4. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 4:8, "Henceforth there is laid up for me, the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing." James wrote of the **"crown of life"**, which God has promised to those who love him," James 1:12. In Revelation 2:10, John wrote of the ultimate crown, "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the **crown of life**." Jesus wore the humblest crown, the **crown of thorns** as He died on the cross, Matthew 27:29, John 19:5.



I love the song, "Mansion, Robe, and a Crown." We may live in nice houses with nice things and have nice clothes,

but few of us wear crowns in this life. Victory means experiencing a close relationship with Christ. Victory means encouraging fellow Christians along the way. It means encouraging those who physically struggle in life, and so on. Victory means leading others to obedience to God so they can also be victorious.

We do not currently experience physical persecution as did our forefathers in the faith. Along with Paul, we can say, *“But thanks be to God, who gives us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ,”* 1 Corinthians 15:57. Revelation 2:10 says, *“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”*

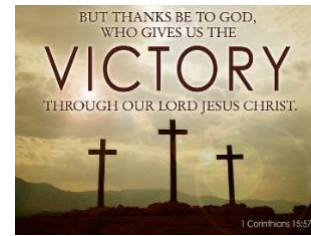


“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him,” James 1:12. *John 14:1-3 says, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”*

In my old age, victory takes on a new meaning. Now, victory means finishing my Christian race at some point unknown to me. It means living my life in faithfulness to my Savior. It means having raised our sons to also be faithful to the end. It means having taught others who now have the same hope of life in heaven after death.

Victory over cancer, alcohol, drugs, disease – all are great victories. As an older Christian, I am nearer to the finish line than I was in those long-ago teenage years. Aging brings many physical changes. Our posture may be less erect, and our hair may change color, as in Proverbs 16:31, *“Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.”* Victory over sin is the ultimate victory of salvation through Christ. My goal now is **to finish life’s**

race and to receive the crown of life—eternal life in the presence of God and Jesus.



Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:55-57, ⁵⁵*“Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”* 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.”***

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, Missouri

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Our Precious Faith

January 24, 1848 started out as a typical workday for carpenter James W. Marshall, who was tasked with constructing a water-powered sawmill in Coloma, California. While digging a channel, Marshall looked down and noticed shiny metallic flakes in the water below him.

Those metallic flakes were gold. This triggered what is known as the California Gold Rush. Having “gold fever,” approximately 300,000 people flocked to California with hopes of striking it rich.

Gold is still a precious commodity today. Gold is listed first among most valuable metals.

David, the Psalmist had something to say about gold.

In Psalm 19 he writes the Word of God is perfect, trustworthy, right, radiant, pure, enduring, and righteous. He follows this list with the Word of God is “more precious than gold.”

Precious is defined as (1) of great price or value and (2) costly. Most would consider gold valuable, but its value is material and temporal. The Word’s value is spiritual and eternal. Gold pales in comparison to the Word of God. Our faith stands on the Word of God. It is our guide through life.

Like David, the Apostle Peter also mentions gold. In 1 Peter 1:18, 19, Peter reminds the believers in Asia Minor, *“For you know that it was not with perishable things like silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”*

Our faith is not only valuable, but it is also costly. It cost God his only son. Without Jesus shedding his blood and dying on the cross, we would have no forgiveness of sin and no hope of eternal life.

People flocked to California with the hope of getting rich. We who are Christians are already rich!

Our faith is precious! Let's not take our faith for granted!

Sally Shank, Edmond, Oklahoma



Oh, Victory in Jesus!

"Victory in Jesus" is a song we sing occasionally. The words are beautiful and full of meaning. The three stanzas are about Jesus and what He has done for us by giving us victory through His blood. The last part of the chorus is – "He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood," referring to our baptism.

Our victory came at great cost. Most victories do. Wars and battles always leave behind a lot of carnage—loss of life and loss of ways of life. The wars fought through millennia have nearly always been about greed and power. Often it is one man or head of a nation wanting power over others or coveting the resources of a nation.

God commanded His people to go to war to secure the Promised Land. The Israelites, led by Joshua, won the battles for the land God had promised them. His people were often attacked but as long as their trust in Him was intact, they won.

Think about the cost for *our* victory. God gave His only Beloved Son to save the world He created. Consider the heartbreak and sorrow in giving His Son to be tortured and crucified on a Roman cross. We can't begin to imagine that, even though it was planned since creation, since Adam and Eve first sinned.

Think of God's sorrow and frustration when His people, who were to bring His Son into the world continued to sin time after time. The Israelites had to undergo long terms of captivity and punishment because of sin. What is He thinking now as He looks down at the condition of the world we live in?

It is difficult for me to watch any movie that tries to depict the crucifixion of Jesus and the events

preceding it. No movie can ever get it right. It was too horrible to recreate. But I still have a hard time watching them, especially "The Passion of the Christ." It comes closer than any others I have seen.

Psalm 60:12 says, "With God we will gain the victory, and He will trample down our enemies." The psalmist was looking to the future, but we are living in the reality of God destroying our enemy, Satan, through Jesus.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:54-57, "When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? (Hosea 13:14). The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I am SO grateful I have the victory over my own sin. Let us all live with grateful hearts for the victory over our sin through Jesus.

Mary Anna Melton, Rolla, Missouri



Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:20



Fred Willmon





Sunrise is a monthly newsletter written and/or assembled by members of the Rolla Church of Christ. Sunrise is printed and distributed (primarily via email) to individuals and congregations around the country. All previous issues can be accessed by going to <http://www.seekgrowserveLove.org>. Click on the Resources tab, then on Sunrise Newsletter. You will find the current issue plus all previous issues.

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