

Victory Through the Cross of Christ

The Cross of Christ - Lesson Two

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(Romans 6:6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

(Galatians 6:14) But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

(1 John 3:8) 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.

In Isaiah chapter 53, God states the purpose of the cross. This passage of Scriptures was prophesied about B.C. 700. It was prophesied that the Christ would be “despised and rejected of men” (verse 3). In this chapter, prophecies will show us the purpose for the suffering Christ and the purpose for the cross.

Isaiah 53:1 says, “Who hath believed our report?” Who will believe this report? Who will believe that the suffering and death of the Christ will give us life? Who will believe that we can be set free from the bondage of sin and death, and receive the Spirit of Christ which is the Spirit of life (Romans 8:2)?

(Romans 13:14) But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. The Bible tells us to not give thought to the desires of the flesh. If we do this then we fulfill the law of sin and that brings death. Instead, we should put on Christ, or in other words we should allow the power of the Spirit of God in our life. This will give us the victory that we need. Christ gives to us all that we need to overcome grief, sorrow, sin, satan, the world, and anything else that will hinder us from living a true Christian life. The victory is in Christ, so let us put on Christ so that we will live a victorious life.

Victory Over Grief, Sorrows, and the Nature of Sin

We should have victory and live a victorious Christian life. The normal Christian life is the “victorious life of Christ Jesus” living in and through us. Every Christian should have a smile on their face because it comes from their heart, and should be living in victory, not in defeat.

In Isaiah 53:3, our Lord Jesus Christ was “...despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief...” Verse 4 shows us what He took on His cross: the purpose of the cross was to take our sorrows and our griefs so that we can live the victorious life in this sin-filled world as a testimony for Christ. (Romans 6:6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. We are to put our sinful nature to the cross to have victory over sin, so that we can live for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Christ took our sorrows, He took our griefs, and “we hid as it were our faces from him” (Isaiah 53:3). Why? Because who wants to look at Christ suffering on the cross? It might touch our hearts. We may feel guilty because we are the ones who sin, and He took our punishment.

“He was despised, and we esteemed him not” (Isaiah 53:3). Christ was despised, and we did not appreciate Him for what He did for us. If we really appreciate what Christ did for us, then we would gladly be buried with Him in baptism, and then live a holy life. We show our appreciation to Christ by how we live for Him.

We now have comfort over grief and sorrow as we look to Jesus, because He is the God of all comfort. Christ suffered so that we will be able to be comforted by His mercies. (2 Corinthians 1:3-5) Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; (4) Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are

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comforted of God. (5) For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

Victory Over Sin

Do you allow sin to control your life? As we allow sin to continue in our life, these sins can become addictions. These addictions will control our life and will eventually destroy us. Christ's purpose for going to the cross was to destroy this sin in our life. (Romans 6:14) **For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.** Through the power of the Word of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit, we can say "no" to sin. (Romans 10:17) **So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** This is how we can live by faith. We allow the Spirit of God and the Word of God to guide and strengthen us. Here, in God's Word, is where we see what He says about the sinful flesh (old man), how to get victory and power over the devil, how to utilize our resources in Christ, and why Christ went to the cross. We are to utilize those resources of why He went to His cross, why He was a man of sorrows, why He was despised and rejected of men; because He bore our sins and our sinful flesh in His own body on the cross. Because Christ was free from sins, did no sin, and knew no sin; therefore, He could take our place on His cross, **"For the wage of sin is death..."** (Romans 6:23). This is why Christ took our death on His cross. Christ became victorious over that old sinful nature that reigns in us. Now, we are able to become victorious through Christ. We are now able to allow Christ to reign in us instead of sin. We are now a new creature in Christ. (2 Corinthians 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.** As we live in Christ, our sinful nature is destroyed and we become a new person.

"Surely he hath borne our griefs" (Isaiah 53:4). The purpose for Calvary was to take our sins away, and our griefs also. Sins and addictions in our life also bring much grief, not only to us, but people around us. Christ went to the cross to destroy that in our life. If we want this deliverance in our life, then we need to be crucified with Christ, buried with Him, risen with Him, and living as He lived. When we do this then we live Christ's purpose for going to the cross. (Galatians 2:20) **I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**

(Romans 6:1-7) **What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (4) Therefore 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. (5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: (6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. (7) For he that is dead is freed from sin.**

Victory Over the World

The purpose for Christ going to the cross was to give us power to live a victorious life in this world. (Colossians 2:20) **Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances.** This verse means that we are to die with Christ to the world's way of doing things. We are not to be influenced by the way the world does things.

Jesus Christ has given us everything that we need to have victory and power in our life. The apostle Paul said, **"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world"** (Galatians 6:14).

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Paul stated that he could not boast about anything he has done, but he could boast about what Christ did at Calvary. And now Paul's relationship to the world had changed, because he no longer cared about the things of the world. When we have a true relationship with Christ, then our relationship to the world will change. (1 John 2:15) *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

Victory Over Satan's Power

We see that the purpose for the cross was so that we would also have power over satan. (1 John 3:8) *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.* The person that sins belongs to satan. Christ went to Calvary so that we would be free from satan's hold on our life. On the cross, Christ defeated the devil. (Colossians 2:15) *And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.* Now, Christ gives to His followers that power that is needed to have a victorious life over the devil.

Because the devil is our adversary (enemy to all things that are holy and true), the Bible instructs us to be alert, firm in the faith, resist the devil, and we shall be victorious. (1 Peter 5:8-9) *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (9) Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.* Being firm in the faith means to be loyal to biblical principles, because the Word reveals to us how we are to live, and what to believe in. True faith is revealed in the Word of God. (Romans 10:17) *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

The Bible tells us that we are in a warfare, a spiritual warfare. And in this warfare, God gives to us the spiritual weapons to become victorious. (Ephesians 6:10-18) *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) 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. (13) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (14) Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; (15) And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (16) Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: (18) Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.*

The devil was defeated through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. And now Christ gives to us the resources that we need to be victorious with Him. These are: truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the Word of God, and prayer in the Spirit.

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(Isaiah 53:4-5) *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. (5) But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.* The purpose of the cross of Christ was to take our punishment of sin, and give us the means to be set free from the bondage of sin. He went to Calvary so that we will become His special people and live a victorious life.

(1 Peter 2:9) *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.* We are a special people, a people that belong to God. We

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praise God because, through the power of Calvary in our lives, we have been taken out of the darkness of sin and satan, and now stand in the light of the Lord. Let us utilize the resources that are available to us so that we will always live a victorious life.

From "The Purpose of the Cross of Christ" by B.J. Nutter, adapted by Mark J. Starin.