

Living in the Victory of Christ

1 Peter 4:1-6

Introduction

What is the victory of Christ? The victory of Christ is concerned with how Christ triumphed over sin, death, and evil through his life, death, and resurrection. Though He was sinless and innocent, Christ willingly chose to suffer and die in our place under God's judgment in order to deliver us from sin, death, and evil. Therefore, when turn away from our rebellion to Christ in faith, the trajectory of our life changes forever. We do not change our lives before coming to Christ. Instead, we abandon all of our other hopes and turn to Him to change us.

Because of the victory of Christ, Christians ought to live differently in the world. But what does it look like for Christians to live differently in the world? To answer this question, **we turn to 1 Peter 4:1-6...**

Exposition

From 1 Peter 4:1-6, we see that God has revealed three distinct ways that we can live in the victory of Christ. God is calling us to live differently in this world as followers of Christ. The three ways that we can live differently in the world are as follows:

I. Possess the Mind of Christ (Vss. 1-2) – Look at verses 1-2

Just as Christ willingly suffered as an innocent man for the sake of being obedient to His Father, so we also should “arm ourselves with the same thinking.” It is important to note, however, that the idea of “arming” presupposes that the road of following Jesus will not be easy. We arm ourselves when we are headed into a battle. Being willing to suffer for the sake of what is right. One of the main ways that we possess the mind of Jesus is to recognize that doing the right thing might mean that we have to suffer, but that is ok, because we understand that this is what it means to follow Jesus. *Consider Philippians 2:5-11...*

II. Embrace the Life of Christ (Vss. 3-4) – Look at verses 3-4

You are not defined by your past. If you are in Christ, you are not destined to perpetual bondage to sin, but rather to be “conformed to Christ's image.” Through Jesus' suffering, we have broken up with sin and are now the Bride of Christ. Yet, how often do we break our vows to Christ our great husband, committing spiritual adultery on the One who delivered us from the destruction of our sin? God is calling us to embrace the new life that belongs to us in Christ and no longer live as we once lived. We must not look back with envy and jealous for the days of our rebellion against Christ. *We must remember the message of Psalm 73...*

III. Hope in the Righteousness of Christ (Vss. 5-6) – Look at verses 5-6

These verses clearly teach that a day of judgment is coming everyone. Christ is the judge of the living and the dead. No one will escape His judgment. So, what is our hope in the final judgment? To what will you cling when you stand before Christ? Will it be your good works? Will it be your effort? Will it be your performance? If hope in your own efforts, you will never escape the judgment of Christ. But, if you trust in Christ and his righteousness, meaning, if you put your hope in who Christ is and what Christ has done for you, then you have nothing to fear in the judgment, because the hoping in the righteousness of Christ, in death and in life, is the only way to escape the holy judgment of God. *Think of how Paul put it in Philippians 3:2-11...*

Conclusion

Living in the victory of Christ might not always look victorious to others. As God has told us, we will often be maligned for refusing to live like the world. But we must remember that Jesus, the great Judge of the Living and Dead, is returning soon. And our only hope in life and in death is to trust in the One who has suffering in the flesh to the point of death on our behalf.

Are you living in the victory of Christ? Do you possess the mind of Christ? Have you embraced the life of Christ? Are you hoping in the righteousness of Christ? If you are, then your life will be different. It will not look like the world around us. It will be full of joy in the midst of sorrow. It will be marked with hope and confidence in Christ. If you want to live in the victory of Christ, would you pray with me as we close this morning?