

“The Thrill of Victory, The Agony of Defeat”



**Images Of Defeat And Sorrow Versus
Images Of Victory And Joy**

“He Will Save His People From Their Sins”

- Matt. 1:18-23 - “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for *He will save His people from their sins*. 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, God with us.’”

“He Will Save His People From Their Sins”

- We so desperately needed Him.
 - Rom. 3:23 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
 - Rom. 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death.”
- He came to save us.
 - Luke 19:10 - “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
 - 1Tim. 1:15 - “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”

“He Will Save His People From Their Sins”

- He did it!
 - Heb. 7:25 - “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”
 - Col. 1:21 - “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled.”
 - Heb. 2:11 - “For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren.”

“For God So Loved The World”

- John 3:16 - “*For God so loved the world* that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
- Rom. 5:8 - “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- 1Tim. 2:3-4 - “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

“God Shows No Partiality”

- Acts 10:34-35 - “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘In truth I perceive that *God shows no partiality.* 35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.’”

“God Shows No Partiality”

- Rom. 2:5-11 - “But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who will render to each one according to his deeds: 7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath, 9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; 10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”
- God’s requirements are understandable, equitable, and attainable.

“Of Necessity There Is Also A Change Of The Law”

- Heb. 7:12 - “For the priesthood being changed, *of necessity there is also a change of the law.*”
- The old law made no one perfect.
 - Heb. 7:18-19 - “For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and un-profitableness, 19 for the law made nothing perfect.”

“Of Necessity There Is Also A Change Of The Law”

- It could not take away our sins.
 - Heb. 10:1-4 - “For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.”

“Of Necessity There Is Also A Change Of The Law”

- It was a yoke of bondage.
 - Gal. 5:1 - “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”
 - Heb. 10:17 - “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

“By Which, When You Read, You May Understand”

- Eph. 3:3-4 - “How that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 *by which, when you read, you may understand* my knowledge in the mystery of Christ”

“By Which, When You Read, You May Understand”

- John 6:66-69 - “From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you also want to go away?’ 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”

“By Which, When You Read, You May Understand”

- John 12:46-50 - “I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. 47 And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. 49 For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. 50 And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

“By Which, When You Read, You May Understand”

- All blessings come with responsibilities. It is true that when we read, we will understand the will of God; but, it is necessary to work diligently to do it.
 - 2Tim. 2:15 - “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

“By Which, When You Read, You May Understand”

- 2Peter 3:15 - “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”
- Mark 12:37 - “And the common people heard Him gladly.”

Consider The Blessings Of Being Able To Understand God's Word:

- Our faith does not depend on the wisdom of humankind.
 - 1Cor. 2:4-5 - “And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”

Consider The Blessings Of Being Able To Understand God's Word:

- We can test everyone's teaching.
 - Acts 17:11-12 - "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men."
- We can work out our own salvation.
 - Phil. 2:12 - "...Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

Consider The Blessings Of Being Able To Understand God's Word:

- We can examine and understand the book that will judge us.
 - John 12:48 - "...The word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."
 - 1Thes. 2:13 - "For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe."
 - 2Thes. 2:13-14 - "But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

“By Grace You Have Been Saved Through Faith”

- Eph. 2:8 - “*For by grace you have been saved through faith*, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.”
- When grace meets obedient faith, the result is salvation.
 - Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - Acts 18:8 - “...And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.”

“By Grace You Have Been Saved Through Faith”

- Rom. 3:23-26 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

“By Grace You Have Been Saved Through Faith”

- Faith is essential.
 - Heb. 11:6 - “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

“By Grace You Have Been Saved Through Faith”

- Works of faith are required.
 - Eph. 2:10 - “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”
 - James 2:14-26 (vs. 24) - “You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.”

“If God Is For Us, Who Can Be Against Us”

- Rom. 8:31 - “What then shall we say to these things? *If God is for us, who can be against us?*”
- What evidence do we have that this is true?
 - Rom. 8:32 - “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

“If God Is For Us, Who Can Be Against Us”

- We can face any difficulty with confidence, we can overcome any obstacle with assurance, and we can overcome any enemy with composure.
 - Rom. 8:33-39 - “Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

“We Are God’s Fellow Workers”

- 1Cor. 3:5-9 - “Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God’s fellow workers.”

“We Are God’s Fellow Workers”

- Every generation is a new generation; therefore, the Great Commission becomes an imperative every generation must fulfill.
 - Mark 16:15-16
 - 1Thes. 1:8 - “For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.”

“Heirs Of God And Joint Heirs With Christ”

- Rom. 8:16-18 - “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs-- *heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,* if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

“Heirs Of God And Joint Heirs With Christ”

- What He is now in heaven, we will be when we get there.
 - 1John 3:2-3 - “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”
 - Rev. 1:10-18

“Heirs Of God And Joint Heirs With Christ”

- We must remain faithful until then.
 - 1Peter 1:3-5 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”
 - Rev. 2:10 - “...Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

“For To Me To Live Is Christ, And To Die Is Gain”

- Phil. 1:21-24 - “*For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.* 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. 24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.”

“For To Me To Live Is Christ, And To Die Is Gain”

- Whether we realize it or not, all of us are living this passage every day. How?
- Modify Paul’s statement and make the application for yourself: For to me to live is _____, and to die is _____.
- If the “to live” is anything but Christ, then the dying will not be gain.
- If the “to live” is Christ, then the dying will be the greatest triumph of our lives.

In The Judgment, Will Your Destiny Be Determined By:

- Words that describe a life of eternal joy and triumph, the thrill of unending victory,
- Or words that describe the unending agony of defeat, sorrow, regret, and pain.
- Our choices in the present determine what words we will hear on that day.