

VICTORY OVER DEATH AND THE GRAVE IS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version.

1. To whom does the apostle Paul attribute victory in his well known chapter in 1 Corinthians 15?
"But thanks [be] to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:57.)
2. In the immediate context of the above statement, what is it that Jesus Christ gives believers victory over?
"O death, where [is] thy sting? O grave, where [is] thy victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55.)
➤ Victory over the grave is given to Christian believers through our Lord Jesus Christ.

WHAT IS THE FUNDAMENTAL CAUSE OF DEATH WHICH WE ALL EXPERIENCE?

3. What is the simple relationship that the apostle Paul has outlined for his readers concerning death, sin and the law?
"The sting of death [is] sin; and the strength of sin [is] the law." (1 Corinthians 15:56.)
4. What has the apostle written in his Epistle to the Romans concerning the ultimate end result of sin?
"For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things [is] death." (Romans 6:20 & 21.)
5. In what well-known term has he described the reward of sin?
"For the wages of sin [is] death" (Romans 6:23.)
6. How has the apostle James stated what is the ultimate result of sin?
"Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." (James 1:15.)
7. How has the prophet Ezekiel stated the same consequences that shall befall all sinners?
"The soul that sinneth, it shall die. ... The soul that sinneth, it shall die." (Ezekiel 18:4 & 20.)
8. How does the apostle Paul describe how sin and death first entered into this world? And why do we all experience death?
"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12.)
9. Can there be any sin or transgression if there is no law?
"For where no law is, [there is] no transgression." (Romans 4:15.)

"(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law." (Romans 5:13.)
10. How do the writers of Scripture describe the truth that we have all sinned?
"For [there is] no man that sinneth not" (1 Kings 8:46.)

"For [there is] not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." (Ecclesiastes 7:20.)

“What then? are we better [than they]? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.” (Romans 3:9-12.)

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23.)

“Death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12).

11. Can we not logically conclude that God’s Moral Law has binding claims upon every human being who has ever been born, because we will all ultimately experience death?

YES!!! *“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.” (Romans 3:19.)*

➤ When the Law of God is transgressed – which is sin according to the apostle John’s definition (*“for sin is the transgression of the law” - 1 John 3:4*) we note that if there is no Law then sin is not going to be imputed against any person, and therefore death would not take place. The fact that we all have sinned and we all ultimately experience death, establishes the truth that the Law of God is indeed binding upon every human being who enters this world.

THE ENTRANCE OF SIN AND DEATH BY THE FIRST MAN ADAM: -

12. Who does the apostle Paul describe as being responsible for bringing death into this world? And who does he describe as bringing the solution to this situation which we all find ourselves in?

“For since by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” (1 Corinthians 15:21 & 22.)

➤ Let us briefly go back to the beginning of this world and the creation of the first man Adam, and find out exactly how death entered into this world because of his sin.

13. In what terms has Moses described the original creation of our first parents?

“God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him” (Genesis 1:27).

“God created man, in the likeness of God made he him” (Genesis 5:1).

14. In what condition did the wise man Solomon describe the original creation of our first parents?

“God hath made man upright” (Ecclesiastes 7:29).

➤ We can safely conclude that the first man Adam was morally perfect in character at his creation. He was in perfect harmony with his Maker and his will. It was natural for Adam to obey his Maker and his Law.

15. What did the Lord make especially for Adam to live in?

“The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.” (Genesis 2:8.)

16. Within the Garden of Eden what did the Lord make for the food of Adam?

“Out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” (Genesis 2:9.)

17. Of what did the Lord give Adam permission to freely eat from?

"Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat" (Genesis 2:16).

NB: - This would indicate therefore that Adam had both permission and access to eat from the Tree of Life within the Garden. Continual eating of the Tree of Life gives a person the power to *"live for ever"* (Genesis 3:22).

18. What was the only restriction that the Lord placed upon our first parents?

"Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." (Genesis 2:17.)

19. Did our first parents obey the Lord's express commandment in this regard?

"And when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, and that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make [one] wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." (Genesis 3:6.)

20. Because of Adam's disobedience of the Lord's express command by listening to his wife's voice, what did God pronounce upon him, and through him, upon all his descendants?

"Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: ... In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou [art], and unto dust shalt thou return." (Genesis 3:17 & 19.)

21. What decision did the Godhead take because of Adam's sin that would eventually cause him to experience death and thus not be able to live forever?

"Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." (Genesis 3:22-24.)

22. How has the apostle Paul described the death sentence that God has pronounced upon all humanity?

"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

THE GODLY PEOPLE OF OLD LOOKED FORWARD TO THE LORD GIVING THEM VICTORY OVER DEATH AND THE GRAVE: -

23. In 1 Corinthians 15:55 which we used in the 2nd question of this study, where is the apostle Paul quoting this statement from?

"I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death" (Hosea 13:14).

24. Of what could the Psalmist testify concerning his personal faith that echoes the prophet Hosea's statement?

"God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave" (Psalms 49:15).

25. How did the righteous patriarch Job testify concerning his faith in the resurrection of the righteous dead and the future victory over the grave?

"So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens [be] no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep. ... If a man die, shall he live [again]? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come." (Job 14:12 & 14.)

"For I know [that] my redeemer liveth, and [that] he shall stand at the latter [day] upon the earth: And [though] after my skin [worms] destroy this [body], yet in my flesh shall I see God." (Job 19:25 & 26.)

THE RESURRECTION OF THE JUST IS BASED UPON THE CERTAINTY THAT JESUS CHRIST HAS INDEED BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD: -

26. Of what did Jesus claim to have the keys of?
"I [am] he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell ¹ and of death." (Revelation 1:18.)
NB: - Because Jesus has experienced death and has conquered the grave, he has the keys of death and the grave. This all implies that he shall use these KEYS to open the prison house of the grave for his followers.
27. Of what has Jesus experienced for every person?
"Jesus ... by the grace of God should taste death for every man." (Hebrews 2:9.)
28. From what words to his disciples can we draw encouragement?
"Because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19.)
29. How vital is the truth of Christ's resurrection from the dead to our Christian faith and hope?
"But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then [is] our preaching vain, and your faith [is] also vain. ... Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." (1 Corinthians 15:13, 14 & 18.)
30. Does the apostle Paul leave us in any doubt concerning the reality of Christ's resurrection from the dead?
"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." (1 Corinthians 15:20.)

JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE: -

31. In what words did Jesus state to Martha the vital role he is to play in the resurrection unto eternal life?
"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25.)
32. Of what did Jesus testify concerning himself so plainly in John's Gospel?
"I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6.)
33. How does the apostle John refer to Jesus when he describes him as being *the Word*?
"In him was life" (John 1:4.)
34. How did the apostle John refer to Jesus in his First General Epistle?
"The Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen [it], and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)" (1 John 1:1 & 2.)

"I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY": -

35. How did Jesus repeatedly affirm that he would resurrect from the dead those who believe in him?
"And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day." (John 6:39.)
- "And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."* (John 6:40.)
- "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."* (John 6:44.)
- "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."* (John 6:54.)

¹ The Greek word that is translated as "hell" is the word αἰδης - "hades" – See Strong's Concordance, Greek, No. 86. It is synonymous with "the grave".

36. What glorious event is described by the apostle Paul as occurring at the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ?
“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:51-55).
37. How did the gospel prophet Isaiah testify to the same wonderful truth?
“Thy dead [men] shall live, [together with] my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew [is as] the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.” (Isaiah 26:19.)