

"VICTORS AND NOT VICTIMS"

Romans 8:28-29

I. INTRODUCTION: *What this verse has meant to me.*

A. At the time of his writing to the Church at Rome Paul had never been to Rome to preach, **BUT HE WAS ANXIOUS TO GO THERE!**

Rom 1:15 "So, *as much as in me is*, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."

1. One can **sense the excitement** in Paul over the prospects of preaching the gospel message to them at Rome. *He was so excited that*—

B. In the first chapter of Romans he set out to introduce his ¹Christ **and** the ²gospel message to them in the letter, *rather than waiting until he went to Rome.*

1. Paul **didn't** exaggerate in his introduction of Jesus nor of the gospel message.

2. **Rom 1:4** "And **declared to be the Son of God** ¹*with power*, ²*according to the spirit of holiness*," ²by the resurrection from the dead.

a. Jesus' resurrection made a statement to the O.T. Church and world about ¹who He was **and** ²about the importance of holiness.

b. Jesus' resurrection is a standard for our resurrection - "**according to the spirit of holiness.**" [**Spirit** – Grk. "Pneuma" = mental disposition, vital principal.]

c. *Christ's resurrection made a statement about who He was and how God feels about holiness.*

d. Our *resurrection* OR *transformation* will make a statement to the N.T. Church and the world when the Rapture takes place.

Rom 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is **the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**"

*(The Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation because its message is about Christ, who is the Son of God with power – **Who gives men power to become the sons of God!!***

3. Paul would have them and us to understand that the **gospel message is the power message.** **The power message** for deliverance for the people of God, as well as salvation for the sinner

C. We need to understand what this means for the Christian [if we don't know], and to be reminded if we do know. **It means:**

1. WE have a certain (sure) Word in an uncertain world.
2. That sure word is this: **Jesus is alive, the devil is defeated, and God is in control.** *This spells deliverance and victory for the child of God.*
3. It is important that we understand as victors **God controls the circumstances** **AND He controls the consequences of the circumstances.** **He does so for two reasons:**
 - a. ¹He does so for His Glory, and ²for our good.

Quote: *"God's Word and promises are an all weather coat for Christians."*

b. Good for the ¹storms of life, ²droughts, ³blasts of change from Satan. Good for when he tries to ⁴freeze us out or when the ⁵heat is on.

4. **In Christ Jesus we're Victors and Not Victims!! WHY??** **Be-cause: there are some things we can know!!** **Many don't know them yet and live defeated or discouraged lives.**

II. "WE KNOW" (v.28) Several ways in which we can know: How?

A. **Objectively** - means we can see and understand the aim, the goal, and intent (need), the object of what is happening to us. **How? By knowing the Word!** **FOR EXAMPLE:**

James 1:2-3 *"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."* (Now this I need!!) **Temptations often try our faith!!**

1 Pet 1:7 *"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it (gold) be tried with fire, (that your faith) **might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.**"* **This should be the desire of every believer.**

B. **Subjectively** - Phil 2:13 *"For it is God which worketh in you **both to will and to do of his good pleasure.** Do all things (submit) without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, **among whom ye shine as lights in the world;**"*

C. **Experientially** - Heb 10:23 *"Let us hold fast the profession [confession] of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"*

1. See for yourself that God is faithful. Tithing = **God blessing 90%**.
2. See for yourself that if you give it will be given unto good measure, etc.

III. "ALL THINGS"?? All things? Yes all things!! For Instance:

A. **Financial needs** remind us that we lack resources.

B. **Sickness And Pain** also remind us we lack resources.

1. This is vividly seen in that there is no cure for the common cold.

C. **Perplexities and Mistakes** remind us that we lack wisdom and we need to seek it in God.

D. YET, through Christ **We Are Victors and Not Victims**, because **HE IS THE EQUIVALENT OF THE REQUIREMENT!! SAY IT WITH ME—**

IV. "WORK" - THIS MEANS GOD'S WAYS ARE **NEITHER ACCIDENTAL NOR INCIDENTAL**

A. *God's ways are not causal nor as an after thought.*

Psa 37:2 *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he (HE) delighteth in his (HIS) way."*

Heb 4:15 *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities (weaknesses); but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."*

A. We're Not Victims, We're Victors because Christ is "**always present.**"

1. **Everything that happens to us happens in the presence of God!!**

V. "TOGETHER FOR GOOD"

A. We're being formed into the image of Christ.

Rom 8:29 *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate **to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." (So the world can tell we're all of the same spiritual family and have the same Father.)*

B. *As with Christ, for us the cross precedes the crown.*

2 Tim 2:11 *"It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:"*

C. **The adverse will prove to be advantageous!**

2 Cor 4:17 *"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, **worketh for us** a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"*

CONCLUSION: We must always remember: Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

A. Those who love God (*relationship*) and who are the **called according to His purpose** (*partnership*) can know that all things work together for their good and for His glory.

1. *If you don't know it then you don't have the relationship with Him you need to.*

B. We're being trained for administrative and management purposes in the kingdom of God for eternity.

1. Otherwise, we will never be able to fill the positions of kings and priests unto God.

C. Soon we will be immortal, glorified, powerful and free. **The universe will be our front yard!!**

D. We're members of God's "*forever family*" which means we will live as long as He does -- and He is eternal.

E. Until eternity, let us **KNOW WE ARE NOT VICTIMS BUT VICTORS, AND THERE ARE NO SECOND CLASS CITIZENS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

F. **Sad to say tonight** that if you're not saved or you're backslidden, you are a victim of Satan and the powers of darkness. **AND Satan takes you at his will and victimizes you.**

2 Tim 2:26 *“And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him **at his will.**”*

Rom 6:16 *“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”*

G. **There is a way out for you.** It is through the name of Jesus and the power of His blood. **Come and let Him take control of your life.**

Luke 10:19 *“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and **over all the power of the enemy:** and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”*

H. Come and take the name of Jesus, His Word, and the power of His blood and claim them over what ever you may be facing.

HE IS THE EQUIVALENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR WHATEVER YOU ARE FACING. DON'T LET SATAN CONTROL YOUR LIFE ANY LONGER. DON'T GIVE IN TO HIM AS IF HE CONTROLS YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES. We're not victims we're victors thru Christ!

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