

Triumphant - cont.

to heaven (2 Corinthians 12:7-9).
Paul wrote:

*I can do all things in him that
strengthens me (Philippians 4:11-13)*

- In Christ, we are triumphant over the world. We do not let sinful and worldly influences inside ourselves (1 John 2:15-17). John wrote:

*For whatsoever is begotten of God
overcomes the world: and this is the victory
that has overcome the world, even our
faith (1 John 5:4)*

- In Christ, we have triumph over the fear of death and the grave. We can be confident that we will die and be with Christ (Philippians 1:21-23). Paul wrote:

*we are of good courage, I say, and are
willing rather to be absent from the body,
and to be at home with the Lord (2 Corin-
thians 5:8)*

The triumphant life is “in Christ” (2 Corinthians 2:14). This is really the only life to live. Let us all be “in Christ” through baptism and then experience the triumphant life he has for us each day. You will be glad you chose the winning side. - *Chris Reeves*

- Thought of the Week -

I check my phone all the time for information, updates, and notifications. I can't wait to read that latest text, email, or FB post. Do I have the same desire to see the information that God has for me each day in the Bible? Hmm. I will have a stronger desire this week to know what God says in the Bible. I will check it the first thing in the morning and the last thing at night.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

But thanks be unto God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest through us the savor of his knowledge in every place
- 2 Corinthians 2:14 -

having despoiled the principalities and the powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it
- Colossians 2:15 -

We all prefer victory over defeat. I don't know anyone who likes to lose a game or a contest of any kind. We all want to be on the winning side of things in life. So, what about the greatest contest of all - life itself? Will you be on the winning side and go to heaven with God for all eternity? Or, will you be on the losing side and go to hell with the Devil for all eternity?

The Devil Wants Defeat

The Devil wants to defeat you. He does not want you to win at life. He does not want you to become a Christian. If you become a Christian, he does not want you to remain faithful as a Christian. If you choose to stay a Christian, he does not want you to stay active in the Lord's church.

- The Devil does not want us to win

the race of life. But we must. Paul wrote:

Know ye not that they that run in a race run all, but one receives the prize? Even so run; that ye may attain. And every man that strives in the games exercises self-control in all things. Now they do it to receive a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, as not uncertainly; so fight I, as not beating the air: but I buffet my body, and bring it into bondage: lest by any means, after that I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected. (1 Corinthians 9:25-27).

- The Devil does not want us to win the spiritual battle of life. But we must. Paul wrote:

Fight the good fight of the faith, lay hold on the life eternal, whereunto you were called, and didst confess the good confession in the sight of many witnesses. (1 Timothy 6:12).

This charge I commit unto thee, my child Timothy, according to the prophecies which led the way to thee, that by them thou mayest war the good warfare (1 Timothy 1:18).

Jesus Wants Triumph

But, we do not have to experience defeat with the Devil. We can experience triumph with Christ. Paul wrote that

Christ himself was triumphant (Colossians 2:15) and that we also "in Christ", can be triumphant (2 Corinthians 2:14). Having been baptized into Christ, we can experience triumph over the many things that would keep us out of heaven.

- In Christ, we can have triumph over sin. Sin does not have to reign over us (Romans 6:3-4, 16-18; 2 Corinthians 5:17). Paul wrote:

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey the lusts thereof (Romans 6:12).

- In Christ, we can triumph over temptation. We can say "No!" to temptation and the Devil (Hebrews 2:18; 4:14-16; James 4:7; 2 Peter 2:9). Paul wrote:

There hath no temptation taken you but such as man can bear: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make also the way of escape, that ye may be able to endure it (1 Corinthians 10:13)

- In Christ, we can triumph over disappointments and hardships. We do not let them keep us from going