

THE VICTOR AND THE VICTORY

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the glory of the only begotten Son of God." Satan would make impossible the birth of Christ. But Christ was born, He lived and died; died not so much a victim as the Victor. He talked about His death which He should accomplish at Jerusalem; it was an accomplishment. The three words, "It is finished," an expression all-comprehensive. As to the past, it is finished; as to the present, it is finished; as to the future, it is finished. God won! God wins! By dying, Christ plucked the sting out of the monster death and left it an helpless means of conveyance for His saints from this world to the glory world. Christ won! Christ wins! God won through Him! God is victor! "The Lord reigneth!"

Third, There Is the Victory of God as Seen in Restoration!

God meets the challenge of sin in human person and in human life. God in Christ meets poor, helpless, sinful, enslaved man, who is led captive by the devil at his will. The Lord Jesus Christ, the God-man, the mighty Conqueror, won His way to humanity by becoming man; now by His glorious power He comes in contact with enslaved man and liberates him.

There is the victory of new birth. Despite man's habits and cruel bondage, the Christ is able. The poor enslaved might have been a Lazarus, dead and in the tomb, but when Christ speaks, "Lazarus, come forth," the dead man lives.

There is the victory of healing. In the death chamber where a little girl lay in the embrace of death, Christ said, "Damsel, I say unto thee, Arise," and she sat up. He conquered disease by healing, conquered sin by forgiveness, conquered death by dying, and conquered the grave by rising. "Because I live, ye shall live also." It might have been a cultured Saul, yet enslaved. Christ conquered, and the poor little proud Saul cried, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Tell me what to do and I'll do it. He is conquered and saved. God is victor! It might have been a poor, drunken Jerry McAuley, a river thief. God met him, and Jerry is transformed. God is victor! It might have been an honest, hungry soul seeking the true way to God. God flashes into his mind the word of truth. "The just shall live by faith," and a great Reformer, Luther, is raised up to defend the cause of pure Christianity. It might have been a church man later. God met an Oxford graduate and gave to the church a great leader, a true holiness man, and a real defender of holy religion. He went forth with the battle cry of inward and outward holiness, and God swept around the world through Methodism. God is victor! the victory of the new birth!

Yes; and there is also the victory of sanctification. God strikes at the pollution in human personality, and through the atonement of His Son and by the agency of the blessed Holy Spirit cleanses sin from its citadel, the seat of human personality, removes it, and indwells there Himself. "We have this treasure in earthen vessels," cries Paul. "I will dwell in them, and walk in them," says God. Paul says, "It is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me"; but soon he cries, "I am crucified with Christ, and I live no longer, but Christ liveth in me." Christ in me! What a victory! God through Christ the victor! Hallelujah!

There is the victory of Christian living. None but true Christians can live the Christian life. The sea of life has been rough, often very rough, but Christ has always been able to quiet life's sea by His "Peace, be still." The outlook has often been dark, but God has always been the winner; He still wins. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God;" "We wrestle not against

flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against spiritual wickedness in high places." God wins for His own. Victory! yes, the victory of God all along the way!

There is the victory over death. "For to me to live is Christ," said Paul. For me Christ is life; for me life is Christ. It does not matter, it is Christ anyway. He is our all and in all. Such a life need not fear death, for "to die is gain." Think of it! That is Paul's note of victory; death to the Christian means; "to be with Christ, which is far better." "With Christ!" That is wonderful in itself; but he adds, "far better," Better company, better associations, better country, "with Christ." "For to me to live is Christ," to have Christ with me here; "to die is gain," for it is to be with Him. The only difference appears to be If I stay here He will stay with me; if I go over there I'll be with Him. Victory! the victory of death! "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be unto God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

One would think that this is enough, but No. There is the victory of eternity.

"Forever with the Lord;

Amen, so let it be.

Life from the death is in that word;

'Tis immortality."

Look up, my friend. God wins, and that for you. God is greater than all things, all circumstances; greater than all persons, even Satan. He is greater than all the deadly weapons of warfare put together, greater than the A-bomb, greater than the H-bomb, greater than death. One person said to another. "An A-bomb would blow you to pieces." Replied the friend, "It may blow my body to pieces, but it will not hurt me, save that it may blow me through the pearly gates, to be forever with the Lord."

"The Lord reigneth," fellow Christians. Let's see to it that we live in His will, wide-awake for Him, ready to suffer with Him and ready to die for Him. Amen.

THE NEW CHURCH MANUAL

We had hoped that our new Church Manual would be ready for mailing before this, but supplemental word and unexpected delays have slowed us down. We are doing our best and will get these eagerly-awaited books to you as soon as possible. We won't suggest a definite mailing date, until we're reasonably certain. All material is in the hands of the printers and the type has been set. The only preparatory work remaining is the index, and this cannot be prepared until the lay-out of the book is complete and the work of stitching a sample copy done.

As stated, we are doing our best. There is a terrific amount of work involved, so be patient, and soon we shall share in the joy of possessing a volume that we think you will be pleased with.

—B. C. C.

JOHN RIPLEY TO WORLD'S FAIR

John Ripley, of Londonderry, N. S., a graduate of Bethany Bible College, and senior Arts student at University of New Brunswick, sailed from Saint John, N. B., March 21st. for Brussels, Belgium. John was selected by the Canadian Government, one of 46 young Canadians, chosen for their special qualifications, to serve as guides in the Canadian Pavilion at the World's Fair which will be held at Brussels from mid-April to mid-October. Our good wishes and prayers follow John, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ripley, of Londonderry, N. S.