

THE TOTAL VICTORY OF THE LORD JESUS

"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." (Colossians 2:15)

The Cross was the greatest triumph ever seen in the history of mankind. What the enemy thought would be his victory turned out to be his utter inglorious defeat.

Normandy saw the greatest invasion fleet ever assembled in history and the beginning of the end for the darkness that had settled over Europe. Iwo Jima saw some of the bitterest fighting ever but the triumph of right over wrong. But what Jesus did on Calvary was a victory that eclipses even those.

Jesus defeated Satan for once and for all time by becoming that very thing which forever had separated man and God - sin - and taking it to the Cross and slaying it.

Jesus was not the Victim here - He was the Mighty Conqueror. Born a lowly baby in a manger, He would be the supreme Sacrifice of the ages. No more the various Levitical sacrifices offered every year, no more the blood of bulls and goats, no more the daily burnt offering - God Himself would do that which Abraham didn't have to do - sacrifice His only Son, the Lamb of God.

God, because He is just, would have to do this legally. He couldn't just squash Satan. Satan legally gained Adam's allegiance in the Garden of Eden and God had to legally gain it back.

God had made a veritable paradise for Adam and Eve to live in, with one caveat - not to eat of the Tree Of Knowledge Of Good And Evil. But the Serpent questioned God's word. And thus -

"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)

(Well, couldn't God have stopped this from happening? I mean, can't He do anything?)

No. God had made Adam heir and co-regent of His creation - "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." (Genesis 1:26)

"Let them have dominion." God had turned His Creation over to Adam and Eve.

And God had given Adam a choice. It had to be that way, because coerced love is not love but mere obedience. Love must be returned of a free will, and thus Adam was given a choice. He made the wrong choice and Satan thus gained legal access to all that God had given Adam.

That is why Scripture records, "Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." (Matthew 4:8,9)

Satan could say that he could give all the kingdoms of the world to Jesus because they were his to give - Adam had given everything to Satan.

In order to reverse this tragedy, God had to find one willing to take on himself all of Adam's sin and rebellion and take it to the Cross and there slay it. A second Adam.

Where Adam had given away everything in the Garden of Eden, Jesus, the Lamb without spot or blemish, drank the cup in the Garden of Gethsemane and became sin itself.

Jesus had a choice, just like Adam - "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." (Luke 22:42) He made the right choice, and took sin and Adam and sickness and sadness to the Cross and slew them there. And took back the Kingdom.

Thus can He now say, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom," (Luke 12:32) because He had won it back from Satan.

Satan is evermore defeated, no longer a free agent. He has no more power than what we give him.

Dominion is now in the hands of our God and of His Christ. The New Covenant is all-encompassing, and our lives are totally in God's hands.

Here's a fun exercise - just for today, count everything that comes into your life as from God; no resisting, no rebuking. Then try the same thing tomorrow. And the next day. And the next. And ever on.

Somebody cut you off on the Interstate without a signal? That's not Satan trying to ruin your day, that's God trying to show you the impatience and hardness in your heart.

We're not devil bait. Not anymore. We're God's now; let Him work as He would.