

VICTORY OF THE CROSS

“He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

Whether we speak of the collaborative victory that was wrought by the Allied forces on D-Day, the valiant stand by the North against Pickett's charge that halted the Confederate forces at Gettysburg, or the stunning victory over the Persians, by Alexander the Great's crafty tactics, when he was vastly outnumbered at The Battle of Gaugamela in 331 BC, History has many examples of pivotal victories that changed the course of the world. However, no victory, from Stalingrad to Waterloo has ever had a greater impact on the course of History than the radical triumph by Christ over the powers of darkness on the hill of Golgotha.

Christ triumphed on the Cross with the paradoxical punch of His own Crucifixion, the knockout blow that defeated the enemy was dealt in Christ's death on the Tree. The Apostle Paul said it this way in Colossians 2:15,

Crucified men often had a Titulus (a sign bearing the condemned man's name and crime, attached to the top of the cross at a crucifixion) nailed over them during their death. Paul used this imagery to show that Jesus being declared guilty, and labeled, “JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS” in an accusative manner (**John 19:19-20**), was ironically just that...The King of God's people. Paul artistically showed that this accusation was figuratively nailing - the record of debt that stood against believers - to the Cross and was paid in full by Christ's Penal Substitutionary death. Believers' debt has been paid in full by Christ, who died in their place and satisfied the wrath of God (**Colossians 2:14**).

Additionally, Christ's death dealt the definitive death blow to the demonic realm as Jesus' bruised heel crushed the head of the Serpent on the Cross. This cosmic victory that was accomplished through the Cross, was so audacious and exhaustive that Paul likens it to a Roman General's triumph celebrated in a victory procession (**2 Corinthians 2:14**). Like a victorious military hero would shame their enemies in their victory parade, so too, Jesus put His enemies to open shame through His conquest on the Cross. Jesus will one day bring to consummation this grand victory and will defeat the vanquished Foe once and for all (**Revelation 20:10**). Believers have been legally pardoned, and the Enemy has been definitively defeated by Jesus' sacrificial death on the Tree, so the Colossian believers like all Christians fight from a place of victory, even now. Praise be to Christ Who has, ***“disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”***

How does the victory of The Cross impact the way that you live your life in the present?

What does it mean for believers to have been freed from the record of debt that stood against them?

How should believers fight the spiritual battle of the Christian life differently, knowing that victory has already been achieved?

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