

Defeating Death

1 Corinthians 15:55 "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

I have been near death at least once that I know of, and probably more times that I don't know of. Even though I escaped death before, it will eventually catch up with me. I don't know when and I don't know how, but I eventually will die. Of course, some will point out that the Lord may return before I die and rapture me up into heaven. True, but since none of us knows when the Lord will return, we'll assume I'll die someday. And you will die someday as well.

If you're thinking about stopping reading this devotional because it's too morbid, I ask you to please read further.

Even though I won't escape death, death has still been defeated. Two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ defeated death once and for all. Death may have thought it won at first. After all, Christ Himself died and was buried in a borrowed tomb. Obvious victory for death, right? Wrong! On Sunday morning, Christ rose from the dead and snatched victory from the jaws of death.

Through Christ's death and resurrection, death has been defeated for us as well. Death's sting was sin. As long as sin remains, death is victorious because sin keeps us out of the presence of God. But Christ paid the penalty for our sins on the cross. When we come to Him for salvation, our sin is thrown as far as the east is from the west. God forgives our sins and remembers them no more. With sin taken out of the way, death may bark, but it has no bite.

Don't misunderstand me . . . Christians still die. But what victory does death really have over the Christian who passes from this earth to the glories of heaven? No victory at all!

Death may wrap its cold hands around my throat, but Christ's nail-scarred hands pry them off. "Not this one," Christ tells death. "He's mine. I paid his penalty. He will rise because I rose. Death, you lost. We won!"

We won. Christ defeated death and allows us to share the victory if we live for Him.

From a fellow traveler just passing through,

Jason Mitchener

Jason Mitchener is a quadriplegic about my age who used to send out some of his writings by email. Since he has no use of his arms or legs, he would type these devotionals using a stick held between his teeth. You can read more of his devotionals and see other items he has produced by going to his website, www.JasonMitchener.com. - Roger