The Ultimate Victory

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday December 15th, 2019

Text: Romans 8:31-39

### Intro

1. Letter from Paul written to saints in Rome (Romans 1:1-7) prior to his arrest in Rome.
	1. Scriptures don’t record the establishment of the church in Rome (contrary to Catholic teachings that Peter & Paul founded & organized it).
	2. Many historians believe Paul most likely wrote the letter from Corinth ca. A.D. 57 *(615 miles away),* before his final journey to Jerusalem (Acts 19:21).
		1. Paul commends Phoebe, “a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea” (Romans 16:1), which is a suburb of Corinth.
		2. Paul is staying with “Gaius” (Romans 16:23). A Corinthian named Gaius was converted by Paul (I Corinthians 1:14).
		3. A greeting is offered from “Erastus, the city treasurer” (Romans 16:23). Paul speaks of Erastus as being in Corinth in II Timothy 4:20.
	3. At the time of his writing a congregation there existed.
		1. Their faith was “proclaimed throughout the whole world” (1:8)
		2. The “report” of their “obedience has reached to all” (16:19)
		3. Paul “had for many years a longing to come” visit them (15:23)
		4. Emperor Claudius “had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome” (Acts 18:2) in AD 52 (Seutonius’ *Claudius*, 25).
		5. Aquila and Priscilla were affected by this and met Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:2)
		6. By the time of this letter they had apparently moved back and hosted a congregation of saints in their home (Romans 16:3-5)
	4. Their existence may go back as far as the beginning of the church in Jerusalem.
		1. The Holy Spirit reveals through Luke that on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem there were “visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes” (Acts 2:10).
		2. Out of 3,000 saved that day it is possible many were from Rome and when these new converts went home, they took their new faith with them.
	5. Roman citizens would have been very familiar with the Triumph Parade.
		1. After conquering a nation, some people would be sold as slaves but other prisoners would be marched (paraded) through the streets of Rome to the shouts and applause of the populace.
		2. Rose petals would be thrown before them in the streets to be crushed by the prisoners and soldiers alike.
		3. To the soldiers and the people it was a smell of victory.
		4. To the prisoners it was the stench of death.
		5. At the end of the parade the prisoners were publicly executed (usually by strangling) to the cheers and adoration of the people of Rome!
	6. Paul describes a different triumph, an ultimate victory found in Jesus Christ!
		1. II Corinthians 2:14-16: The ultimate triumph in Jesus – A smell of victory to those being saved, the fragrance of Christ to God, and the stench of death to those who are perishing! (Same message but to different groups of people 2 very different aromas! Same contrast to the Triumph Parade)
		2. Romans 8:31-39: Paul says in Christ we are more than conquerors (NKJV: 8:37)! Nothing can separate a saint from the love of Jesus Christ!
2. Like the Roman saints, Christians today face all kinds of problems and difficulties.
	1. Dealing with life’s issues can lead some to discouragement!
3. Unlike people in the world, who have to deal with discouragement without any real hope, saints have the true source of encouragement: the love of Jesus Christ!

#### More Than Conquerors

* 1. Romans 8:31-39: As Christians, we will have the ultimate victory, the triumph over all of our troubles, persecutions and problems, if we remain faithful to Him who loves us, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior (8:37; Philippians 3:20)
	2. Romans 8:31-32
		1. Who should we fear? “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Mt. 10:28)
		2. Instead of being fearful & anxious, we can be confident that God will bless us!
	3. Romans 8:33-34
		1. Remember: It is not those in the world, but Jesus Christ Who will be our ultimate Judge *(We will not be judged by the court of public opinion!).*
		2. Not only our Judge, but our Mediator as He lives to make intercession for the saints (Hebrews 7:25) – No greater defense than the Lord & Creator!
	4. Romans 8:35-37 (Quotes Psalm 44:22 in 8:36)
		1. Some may become so discouraged they may ask or wonder if they can be separated from the love of Christ.
		2. Paul affirms that no matter the difficulty or trial, through Christ we can be victorious over any obstacle or hardship. NKJV: “More than conquerors!”
	5. Romans 8:38-39
		1. No external power or persecution, no created thing or person on earth can separate us from God’s love!
		2. SELF is not included in that list because we can fall away – So many warnings
			1. The parable of the Sower: Rocky & Thorny Soil – Luke 8:13-14
			2. The example of Israel: Hebrews 2:1-4; 3:12-13
			3. General warnings: I Timothy 4:1; II Peter 3:17
		3. If we remain faithful to Jesus, Who loved us, died for us, and intercedes for us (Romans 8:32, 34, 37) then there is NOTHING in this world that can separate us from the love of Jesus Christ and God the Father, or keep us from the benefits of God’s love!
	6. For Christians in any time period there is great encouragement and comfort in these words: Through Jesus Who loves us we are more than conquerors!

## Conclusion

1. We can be victorious!
2. The Day of Judgement will be a Triumph Parade unlike anything ever seen!
	1. The nations and all people, small & great, will be gathered and separated to the right and left of Jesus: Sheep to the right, goats to the left (Matthew 25:31-33)
	2. The righteous will be judged and eternally rewarded (Matthew 25:34-40, 46)
	3. The wicked will be judged and eternally punished (Matthew 25:41-46)
	4. The enemies of the Lamb of God & His saints will be eternally punished (II Thess. 1:7-9)
3. In life and the life to come, a faithful child of God cannot be separated from the love of Jesus; however, the wicked will be eternally separated from God (II Thess. 1:9)!
4. No matter what you are dealing with today, would you like to have the ultimate victory over your problems/persecutions/challenges/hardships, etc.?
5. If not a Christian, a child of God, you can become one today!
6. In Jesus Christ we have the ultimate victory through our faith *(I John 5:4)* and in His love we are more than conquerors!
7. If you are not a Christian, you need to be! Repent and be baptized!
8. If a Christian in error, repent (correct) & be renewed!
9. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!