

Endurance - 'Our Victory In Christ' (Part 3)

Romans 8:28-39 - June 26, 2016

How does our 'Victory in Christ' help our endurance?

As we consider the idea of endurance, we need to realize that (as with much of Christianity) endurance is laid-hold of by faith ... As we come to understand our victory in Christ.

*Romans 8:28-30

"God's sovereignty and ability to manage every aspect of our lives is demonstrated in the fact that 'all things work together for good to those who love God'... Though we must face the sufferings of this present time (Rom.8:18). God is able to even make those sufferings work together for our good, and His good"

1) By Knowing That One Day, We Will Be Glorified

"Glorification" is God's final removal of sin from the life of the saints (those in Christ), in the eternal state. Christ will be realized in us, and instead of being burdened with a sin nature, we will be changed into holy immortals with direct access in God's presence, as we enjoy fellowship with Him throughout eternity.

Our final state (glorification), is the culmination of sanctification (not apart from the cross, of course).

Keep running well - becoming more like Christ, and as we reach the gates of glory we might hear, "*Well done, good and faithful servant.*"

*Romans 8:31-36

2) By Knowing That We Have Been Justified *Show vs. 33+34 again

Our justification in Christ gives confidence to the follower of Jesus, as we come to understand that the war has been won, victory is ours - sin

and death have been defeated; '*It is finished.*' There is nothing else we can do to earn our salvation, but cling to Jesus.

Jesus is no half-Savior. It is a hard thing to bring proud hearts to rest upon Christ for righteousness; God humbles the proud by calling sinners completely from their own righteousness, to Christ for their justification.

*Verses 35+36 again

Having been justified, we experience the death and denial of self.

This isn't a bad thing, as this is what it looks like to follow Jesus... To know Him and make Him known, standing in victory, though at times, it can feel like defeat; this is how we experience the 'power of His resurrection'.

It's our justification in Christ that brings ultimate victory, helping us to endure ... As we rest assured through our righteous standing before God because of Jesus' cross. This helps us to press on for Him, knowing that one day, it will all be worth it!

*Romans 8:37-39

3) By Knowing That We Conquer Through Christ Presently *Vs. 37, & then, vs. 36 :

As we're going through it, all day, everyday (oftentimes it seems that way!), even then ... God makes it clear that we don't merely 'conquer,' but we overwhelmingly 'conquer' (presently!).

We need to understand that a big part of our struggle is against our own sin.

Christ's death has cut the power of sin ... It is severed by Jesus.