



Vol. 2

Lexington, Kentucky

September 1971

No. 12

THE MAN OF PERFECT VICTORY

BY: C. D. COLE

"Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:6-11). "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb. 12:2).



Location: 3.3 miles out Bryan Station Road. Right on Briar Hill Road.

- Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
- Evening Service 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Air-Conditioned

Nursery Provided

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 Lexington, Ky. 40505

The Man of perfect victory was the last man we would expect to be the man of perfect victory, if we were to judge by appearances. Judging from appearance he was of lowly birth, and was brought up under the most adverse circumstances amid surroundings that would be calculated to make for failure rather than success. His father was a carpenter in a little town that was despised everywhere, from which no person of note could possibly come. This man was handicapped both by birth and training. It is true that he created quite a sensation for about three years, and enjoyed a brief season of popularity with the common people. But he was never taken into the councils of the great and wise of this world. He was a financial failure, never owning a home, and in death was buried in a borrowed tomb. He was likewise a social failure, keeping company with

publicans and sinners. His own brethren were disappointed in him, and had no faith in his claims. "I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children" (Ps. 69:8). "For neither did his brethren believe in him" (John 7:5). His own townspeople were so angered at him that they sought to take his life. His career on earth was short. He died the most shameful death that any man ever died. And judging from appearances that was the end of him. It is true his disciples, soon after his death, began to preach that he was alive; but no man of the world ever saw him.

Now, this is the man of perfect victory. Judging righteous judgment, he was the only man of success that this world ever saw. Looking at people as God looks at them, this man was the only man with a perfect record--the only man without a blot or blemish. Let us think together of this perfect life. Let us meditate upon his glorious and victorious career. This man of perfect victory sustained the relationship of servant to Jehovah. The place of servant was voluntarily accepted. Essentially he was equal with God the Father.

1. He won a victory over the opportunity for originating evil. To let you see what I mean, we must distinguish between the sin of angels and the sin of man. Angels originated evil by their own volition. Sin did not have its origin in the human race, but in the angelic race. Man sinned because of temptation from without. The story of the fall of angels is that they did not keep their habitation, that is, they did not remain where God placed them. "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day" (Jude 6). They forsook their place of service or government. They resigned their place as servants. Lucifer, the son of the morning, who seemed to be the leader of the host of fallen angels, said, "I will ascend into heaven. I will be like the Most High." This was the way sin originated. It was the assertion of creature will against the will of the Creator.

Now, when Jesus came into the world, He came into a new sphere of existence. He voluntarily took the place of a servant and was sent by God the Father into the world as the place of service. A place of habitation for servants is ordained by God, and a task is committed to their hands. The law of maintaining that habitation is that of keeping God always before the face as King. With Lucifer and those angels that followed, there came a moment when they chose to exercise their own will without respect to the command of God. That is when sin began.

As the Servant of God, on the angelic plane of relationship, Jesus Christ set the Lord always before his face. He never broke from his allegiance to God. He never exercised his own will. He never indulged in independent or self-caused action. He never rebelled the service, or chose his own method of life.

2. He won the victory over the opportunity of evil from outside temptation. As a man on the human plane of relationship, he was never moved by the forces that were against him. He was assailed from every conceivable angle. Satan who had conquered the first Adam, brought all the weapons of his infernal armory against him, but Jesus stood, because he recognized God on his right hand.

3. He won a victory over the opportunity for evil in failure under responsibility. He had won the victory over purity and holiness, but in his death and resurrection he won a victory in the place of responsibility. To Jesus was committed such a task as was never committed into the hands of any other person. It was the task of bringing many sons to glory. It was the task of raising up everyone the Father gave him. The path of service surveyed by God led through Gethsemane to Calvary. It involved obedience unto death, even the death of the cross. Believers, our destiny is in the hands of Jesus. He assumed the responsibility of bringing us to God. He died the just for the unjust that he might bring us to God. This task he is still engaged in. While on earth, he made the perfect sacrifice to save us from the curse of the law, and now from his place on high he is interceding at the right hand of God, and through the Holy Spirit is drawing men to faith in himself.

4. The reward of the victory. He has been exalted and has been given a name that is above every name.

(a) The reward of happiness: "Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

(b) The reward of sovereignty. "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." God has made him both Lord and Christ.

Jesus Christ is no longer the man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. One day he is coming to be glorified. He will be wondered at in all them that believed. He will then be manifested as the Wonderful One. And the wonder of his work will never die. There have been many objects of wonder in the past. We talk about the seven wonders of the ancient world, but these have been eclipsed with the wonders of the 20th century. We have wondered at human achievements until we have about ceased to wonder at anything. But in that day when he is glorified in his saints, an onlooking universe will look at them and wonder at his marvelous skill as a Saviour. And this wonder will never cease.

The glory of Christ as Saviour has not yet been established. Multitudes still reject him and do not believe he is able to do such a wonderful job of salvation. But when he comes and his saints appear with him in glory, there will be no more doubting. His power as Saviour will be fully demonstrated and the faith of his people will be vindicated. He will be wondered at in all them that believed. **THE MAN OF PERFECT VICTORY!**

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THE BIBLE

The Bible contains: the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its

precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are unchangeable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of Hell disclosed. CHRIST is its Grand Subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened in the Judgment, and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents.

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