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THE VICTORIOUS LIFE

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"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith," Habakkuk 2:4.

"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith," Romans 1:17.

"But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith," Galatians 3:11.

"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him," Hebrews 10:38.

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith," I John 5:4.

INTRODUCTION: Every saved man is assured of victory in the end, sin shall not have dominion over him, shall not be able to damn him; but every saved man does not have victory on the way. There is the victory of destiny, every believer will be glorified; and there is the victory of peace and joy on the way.

WHAT IS THE VICTORIOUS LIFE?

It is not a sinless life. The believer has to deal with sin in his own life. The man who thinks he lives above sin deceives himself and is proud.

It is not a life free from suffering. Many are the afflictions of the righteous. Every one of us has his portion of suffering allotted by God.

It is not a self-satisfied life. No believer has the right to be satisfied with himself until he awakes in glory with Christ and is like Him.

The victorious life is the life of faith. See I John 5:4, *"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."* Faith is the victory, we got the victory by having faith.

It is the life of prayer. Faith and prayer go together. Most of us feel we do not pray enough and we do not. Many of us have our stated times for prayer and too often our praying is a sort of routine, a sort of necessary thing that we must do. A young man once read how Luther and others would pray for three or more hours a day; and he decided he would spend more time in prayer. So he began to pray by the watch. He got down on his knee and thought he would pray a long time, and when it seemed to him he had been on his knees a long time he took out his watch and he had prayed only six minutes. But this sort of praying is a burden and has no point to it. But when we begin to take the problems of life to God in prayer, we will find there is hardly enough time for prayer, we will be continually facing things too much for us. We will take them to God in prayer and submit them to Him. The life of faith turns everything over to God in prayer.

THE PROBLEM OF SIN

We must recognize that it cannot damn us. *"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace,"* Romans 6:14. *"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord,"* Romans 6:11.

Recognize that you cannot deal

with it in your own strength. We have to continue like we began. In our conversion we saw sin was too much for us and trusted Christ. And sin is still too much for us, we have to submit the problem to Him. But we do not have to be in despair. We do not have to give up. Christ can handle the problem if we submit it to Him. When we sin we are apt to try to take the thing by the nap of the neck and conquer it and say we will do it no more. And then the very sin that tripped us is apt to return and defeat us. It is better and wiser to take the thing to God in prayer and say something like this: "O God, I have no strength to deal with sin, there is nothing I can do about it, it is just like me to do wrong and I will do it again unless Thou doest come to my rescue in the hour of temptation." (Guy Woods)

Paul tells us of his experience with sin. *"For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not,*

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GRACE

BY: C. D. COLE

"That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus," Ephesians 2:7.

Grace is a great word in the Bible. It is a sweet word to the human ear when its meaning is brought home to the soul by the Holy Spirit.

*Grace, tis a charming sound,
Harmonious to the ear:
Heaven with the echo shall resound,
And all the earth shall hear.*

Grace is a word that applies to both God and man. When applied to God it means either an attribute of God or an act of God. Grace belongs to God as an attribute just as wisdom, power, knowledge, etc., belong to Him. As an act of God it means the unmerited favor of God in the salvation of hell-deserving sinners. Grace is for the guilty.

When grace is applied to man it speaks of duty. In urging upon the Corinthians their duty to give of their money to the poor saints at Jerusalem, Paul says, *"Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also," II Corinthians 8:7.* Giving is the very heart and soul of grace. God's grace was manifested in giving His Son to die for sinners; Christ's grace was shown in giving unto poverty. *"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich," II Corinthians 8:9.* So grace in a Christian will be seen in his giving himself and his substance.

Grace is a substance force in man. *"Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the*

Lord," Acts 11:23. "And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace," Acts 18:27.

LAW AND GRACE CONTRASTED

"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ," John 1:17. "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith," Galatians 5:4. "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace," Romans 6:14.

LAW - God prohibiting and requiring. *"And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and*

rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's," Exodus 20:1-17.

GRACE - God beseeching and bestowing. *"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation....Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God," II Corinthians 5:18,20.*

LAW - A ministry of condemnation. *"And this is the condemnation that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil," John 3:19.*

GRACE - A ministry of forgiveness. *"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace," Ephesians 1:7.*

LAW - Curses. *"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them," Galatians 3:10.*

GRACE - Redeems from curse. *"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree," Galatians 3:13.*

LAW - Kills. *"For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died....For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me,*

and by it slew me," Romans 7:9,11.

GRACE - Makes alive. *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly,"* John 10:10.

LAW - Shuts every mouth before God. *"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God,"* Romans 3:19.

GRACE - Opens the mouth to praise God. *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved,"* Romans 10:9. *"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy,"* Psalm 107:2.

LAW - Puts a great distance between man and God. *"And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off,"* Exodus 20:18.

GRACE - Makes guilty man nigh to God. *"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ,"* Ephesians 2:13.

LAW - Says, *"An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,"* Exodus 21:24.

GRACE - Says, *"But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also,"* Matthew 5:39.

LAW - Says, "Do and live."

GRACE - Says, Believe and live. *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved,"* Romans 10:9 *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God,"* Romans 10:17.

LAW - Utterly condemns the best man. *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one,"* Romans 3:10.

GRACE - Freely justifies the worst man. *"And hope maketh not*

ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us," Romans 5:5. *"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief,"* I Timothy 1:15.

LAW - The sheep dies for the shepherd. *"And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a burnt offering wholly unto the Lord: and Samuel cried unto the Lord for Israel; and the Lord heard him,"* I Samuel 7:9. *"And if he bring a lamb for a sin offering, he shall bring it a female without blemish,"* Leviticus 4:32.

GRACE - The Shepherd dies for the sheep. *"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep,"* John 10:11.

LAW - By the law is the knowledge of sin. *"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin,"* Romans 3:20.

GRACE - By grace is the knowledge of Him--the Son. *"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ,"* John 1:17.

SIN AND GRACE CONTRASTED

Sin abounds. Grace super-abounds. *"Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound, But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound,"* Romans 5:20.

Sin is of man. *"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous,"* Romans 5:19.

Grace is of God. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God,"* Ephesians 2:8. He is the God of all grace. *"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you,"* I Peter 5:10.

Sin deserves eternal wrath. *"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death,"* Revelation 20:14.

Grace bestows eternal life. *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord,"* Romans 6:23.

Sin came through first Adam. *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned,"* Romans 5:12. *"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive,"* I Corinthians 15:22.

Grace came through last Adam. *"And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam a quickening spirit. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven,"* I Corinthians 15:45,47.

Sin is awful. *"For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law,"* Romans 2:12.

Grace is glorious. *"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ,"* Titus 2:13.

Sin is dangerous. *"But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire,"* Matthew 5:22.

Grace means safety. *"The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe,"* Proverbs 18:10.

Sin reigns unto death. *"Grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord,"* Romans 5:21.

WORKS AND GRACE CONTRASTED

"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work," Romans 11:6. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God,"* Ephesians 2:8.

Salvation by works would be

God paying a debt. *"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness,"* Romans 4:5. Salvation by grace, God giving salvation.

Salvation by works would make boasters. *"Not of works, lest any man should boast,"* Ephesians 2:9. Salvation by grace opens the mouth in praise. *"And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,"* Ephesians 6:19.

Salvation by works is a toll-bridge over the river of sin. Salvation by grace is a free-bridge.

Salvation by works is salvation earned. Salvation by grace is salvation given.

Salvation by works is salvation through the sinner himself. Salvation by grace is salvation through a substitute.

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that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin," Romans 7:14-25.

Let us analyze it:

Paul took sides with the law against himself--the law is spiritual, I am carnal--I have no power to keep the law.

He disowned the sin. I do not mean to do it. For that which I do I allow not; what I hate that do I; No more I that do it but sin in me.

He knew that his old fleshly nature was no better. I know that in me dwelleth no good thing.

He had a will to live above sin, but he lacked the power. For to which is present with me but how to perform that which is good I find not.

WHY IS THE SINFUL NATURE LEFT IN US?

It is, and there must be a divine reason for it. It is there that we may feel how terrible it is. Sin is not terrible to the lost man. He may grieve over the consequences of sin, but not over sin itself. It is there to teach us our helplessness, and to cure us of pride and self-sufficiency.