

Bible Basics Conference 2010: Results of Christ's Death

Part 12

Speaker	Bible Basics Conference; Andrew Poots; Michael Hardt; Graham Warnes; Simon Attwood; Hugh Clark; Paul Dronsfield; Geoff Hawes
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[00:00:00] Christ's victory.

What a wonderful theme for our consideration this afternoon.

But what is it exactly that we're speaking about?

How may we be assured of Christ's victory?

And I think there can only be one answer to that question.

I'm going to illustrate it from the story of David and Goliath. And those who were listening yesterday might have caught something of that. Remember how the little shepherd boy went out against the Philistine champion, this great giant who disdained him? [00:01:02] One little stone went through the air and the giant came tumbling down. Now if you were standing there, what would you have been thinking? You might have been hopeful.

You might have been encouraged. You might have been anxious. I think you might have been wondering, well, what's going to happen next? Is the giant going to get up and fight back? But you know what David did? He went and he took Goliath's sword and he stood on the giant and he cut off his head.

Was there any doubt about David's victory when he stood with Goliath's head in his hand?

And that's what we're told of the Lord Jesus Christ, that through death, [00:02:03] through Satan's own weapon, he destroyed him that has the power of death, that is the devil. And what corresponds for us to that action is the resurrection of Christ.

So when we speak of Christ's victory, we're looking beyond death and we're looking forward to resurrection and we can distinguish these things without dividing.

We must take these things together. And Paul says, I delivered unto you first of all that which also I received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures.

And that he was buried and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

That's 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verses 3 and 4, the resurrection chapter, [00:03:07] a very important chapter for us.

And incidentally, what we have in front of us supposes Christ's manhood.

It's the man Christ Jesus who was capable of dying.

He was buried, that refers to his physical body. And he rose again, that's the bodily resurrection of Christ. So this scripture tells us of his true manhood. And this is what Paul calls the gospel. He says he had received it, he had preached it. The Corinthians had received it and they were saved. And that's what we need to do, young as well as old. We need to receive the gospel for ourselves in the first instance. And then we need to preach it and proclaim it and make it known to others [00:04:03] in order that they too may believe and receive it and then they also will be saved. So when we think of Christ's victory, we're bringing ourselves forward through death to resurrection. And we can even bring in the thought of ascension. The resurrection is a fundamental part of the gospel.

Ephesians 4 verse 9 tells us, he that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.

Now notice in this verse, the continuity of the person. He that descended is the same also that ascended.

He is a divine person, unchanged and unchangeable.

[00:05:05] He is the word. We're told the same was in the beginning with God, but that same word became flesh and tabernacled amongst us.

So we have his person, his divine person brought before us here. But he descended, he came down from heaven, but it was as man he ascended.

He did not assume a personality.

He assumed a human nature. He became man. This one who was and is God became man. He descended and then he ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.

He fills all things as man. Our brother Robert was telling us of things that were true of him in manhood. Of course, as God, he always filled all things. But here's one who has come from the highest place. [00:06:02] He's gone down into the lowest place. He's ascended up far above all heavens, and now he fills all things. What a wonderful person we have as our savior.

Well, now coming to Christ's victory, I'd like to mention four things. Christ's victory in itself. Christ's victory over Satan and principalities and powers. Christ's victory over death. And Christ's victory over sin. And I wish to take those four points in that order. Christ's victory in itself.

He was the prince of life. I've been in the presence of death. And it's not a very pleasant thing. [00:07:03] In my life's experience, two people have passed away, have dropped dead in my very presence, no further away than from where Jonathan is sitting. Just like that. My question to you today is, if you were to pass away in my presence, where would your soul be?

Where would you spend eternity?

If God were to call you to give an account to himself through death? But you know, beloved, no one ever died in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was the prince of life. No doubt they killed the prince of life. God raised him from the dead. Peter could say, we're off, we are witnesses. Acts 3 verse 15.

No one died in his presence. He raised Jairus's daughter. [00:08:03] He raised the widow of Nain's only son. And he raised Lazarus from the dead. And he rose again himself in the power of an indissoluble life. Up from the grave he arose with a mighty triumph for his faults. He arose the victor from the dark domain and he lives forever with the saints to reign. He arose. He arose.

Hallelujah.

Christ arose. You see, there was that divine power.

There was that in him which could not be held by death. He had said, destroy this temple, referring to his bodies. And in three days, I'll raise it up again. He could speak of himself as the one who had power to lay down his life. And he had power to take it again. That was true of no one else. [00:09:02] And he was raised by the glory of the father. And he was quickened or made to live by the Holy Spirit. And this shows that divine persons, that the Trinity, that the Godhead acts in unison. The actions of one person in the Godhead is essentially the actions of all three. He raised himself, the spirit quickened him and the father of glory visited the tomb and took him out of death. So there is that intrinsic excellence and power in Christ, which was such that death could not hold its prey. Christ's victory because of who he was in his own person. But secondly, he was victorious over Satan and over principalities and powers.

We're going to take this in two stages. Part one, over Satan.

Here, the verse that I want to refer to, I've mentioned already Hebrews 2 verses 14 and 15. [00:10:09] Since therefore the children partake of blood and flesh. That's the human condition. He also, in like manner, took part in the same.

It's a slightly different Greek word there. He took part in something which was outside of himself. But we're told of the purpose of his coming into manhood. That through death, he might destroy or he might set at naught.

He might annul him who has the power of death.

That's Satan. He's the evil being who introduced sin and death and who wields the power of death.

Tells us here who he is. That is the devil. And he might set free all those who through fear of death were subject to bondage. That was the position of people in the Old Testament. [00:11:03] They had

great fear of death. We can think of Hezekiah. They didn't quite know what was beyond it. But Christ has brought to light life and incorruptibility.

And we as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ should not have any fears in regard to death or in regard to judgment or in regard to what will be true of us in a future day. And if anyone here has any doubts or questions in their mind as to these things, maybe certain anxieties, you need to listen carefully to what's being said in these sessions.

You need to study the scriptures for yourself. You need to speak to someone in a pastoral way or someone who has got an understanding of the Word of God who can explain these things to you. Because it's not God's thought that you should be in fear. It's not God's thought that you should be anxious. [00:12:02] It's not God's thought that you should be uncertain. You want to be assured of the victory, which is not in ourselves, but is it in Christ. It's outside of ourselves. And I think again, by way of illustration of the children of Israel, after they passed over and before they crossed the Red Sea, they were hemmed in. They were surrounded. The water of the Red Sea was in one side of them. Pharaoh and his armies were closing in on them. And it looked as if it was going to be certain death for them. But God, made a way through the Red Sea, speaks of the death of Christ.

And Moses and those were with him were able to pass through. And then the sea closed over in the armies and Pharaoh and his hosts were destroyed in those waters. What did they sing? [00:13:01] The Lord has triumphed and triumphed gloriously. The horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. They triumphed over Pharaoh and his armies. We as believers in Christ triumph over Satan and over those wicked principalities and powers. Because Christ has the victory through death. He has destroyed him that has the power of death and he has set us free. As well as over Satan, it's also part two over principalities and powers. And here I go to Colossians chapter two, verse 15, where it says, having spoiled principalities and power, he made a show of them openly. He made a display of them triumphing over them in it. It was like the Roman general returning to Rome, victorious over his enemies. And as a proof and as a sample of his victory, [00:14:03] the enemies were chained and they followed in his train. And he was, the general was triumphing over them openly and letting everyone see how victorious he was. And that's exactly what Christ has done, beloved. In his death and in his resurrection, he has triumphed over every wicked power, over everything that is against us. And in his resurrection, he's made a show of them openly. What a triumph! This is the victory that Christ has.

Now moving to the next scripture, which refers to this is Ephesians four, verses eight to 10. And here we're told that the one that ascended, what is it? But that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth. In the words of the creed, he descended into hell. [00:15:01] That needs to be properly understood because it means a state of death. It means the place of the departed. But here we see again that the one who came from the highest place went right down into the lowest place, into the grave, into the state of the dead. And in doing so, coming out of death, ascending on high, he again leads captivity captive.

Those who were held captive to sin and Satan, he has freed and led captive. Or we may look at it that those who have held us captive, the principalities and powers, Satan are held captive by him. His victory is so great that the release for us is such that he can give gifts onto humankind and he can use us in his service.

The third point, victory over death.

[00:16:03] Christ's resurrection in itself is victory over Satan and principalities and powers. But just think of the triumph over death in his own person. Christ the firstfruits, but the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. First Corinthians 15 verses 26 and 27.

This is a victory which will be seen in its fullness for the believer when Christ in its fullness for the believer when Christ returns. And he says, behold, I show you a mystery. The previous speaker has told us that a mystery is not something mysterious. It's something that was not previously revealed, but which has now been revealed to faith.

In other words, Paul is saying, I'm going to show you a new truth.

[00:17:04] I'm going to tell you something which was not previously known. And the mystery doctrines of the New Testament form an important subject for our considerations.

And here he says what this mystery is. Well, not all sleep. Now, that doesn't mean sleep in the meeting or sleep in bed at night. That means physical death, sleep as regards the body. David, having served his generation, fell on sleep.

And we're also told about Stephen that when he had said this, he fell asleep.

They were pelting him with stones. He committed his spirit to the Lord Jesus. He said, lay not this into their charge. And he fell asleep. He fell on sleep. That meant that he went through the article of physical death. Paul here is saying we talking about believers in general, we're not all going to physically [00:18:08] pass through the article of death because Paul says amongst the Christian company, there will be those who will be changed. That's a possibility for us that we may be alive on this earth when the Lord Jesus returns. And then one of two things will happen. If we're saved, we'll be changed and we'll be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we ever be with the Lord. But if we are not saved and if we are not ready.

Ready. I say you, because through grace, I've trusted in the Lord Jesus. But if you do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as your savior and Christ were to return. Those who are his in a moment in the twinkling of an eye will be gone. We'll all be gone and you'll be left behind to the judgment of God. [00:19:04] That's why it's so important to come to grips with these truths. And so important for each one here to know the Lord Jesus Christ as a personal savior. It's only the believers that will be changed in a moment in the twinkling of an eye at the last trump for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible.

Here we come to the victory of God. Here we come to the victory of Christ. Here we come to the victory over death. And it's coming again as regards the believer, the dead will be raised incorruptible and the living shall be changed. And we know from other scriptures that we will go to meet the Lord in the air. But this even is true, even as to this earth, even on this earth, where sin has come in. Where death has come in, in this very place, on this earth. Christ is going to have the victory over death. [00:20:03] And he's going to raise the dead on this earth. And he's going to change the living on this earth. And then we'll be caught up.

And I'll leave you to read what it says.

Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

O death, where is thy victory? But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

That's what we're speaking about, dear friends, Christ's victory. Death's not going to have the last word. The grave's not going to have the final stay. The question's asked them, where is thy victory? It might seem at times that death and the grave are victorious. [00:21:03] But beloved, we look on to Christ's coming. And even at this present time, we can say, thanks be to God who gives us the victory as a present thing to faith through our Lord Jesus Christ. This is Christ's victory.

So far, we've looked at Christ's victory in Christ's resurrection, at the time of his resurrection, and we've looked at it at his second coming.

Two aspects. But there is a third one. And that is the culmination and the fullness of his victory in the eternal state.

And our brother mentioned that verse of the hymn, all taint of sin shall be removed, all sorrow done away, and we shall dwell with God's beloved through God's eternal day. [00:22:04] What a victory that's going to be in those bright and blessed scenes where sin can never come. So we come now in the last place to the victory over sin. And in this respect, I want to refer to John's Gospel 1 verse 29. And I want you to do something for me. I want you to fill in the blank. The next day, John seeth Jesus coming on to him and saith, behold, the Lamb of God who takes away thee.

I wonder, I think I heard something there. I wasn't expecting an audible response, but I actually heard what I expected to hear.

You'll notice I don't have the verse in quotation marks here, because this isn't [00:23:03] actually what the verse says. I wonder who it was said who takes away the sins of the world. Because very often, mostly when you hear this verse quoted, the people say who takes away the sins of the world. But you know, beloved, if Christ had taken away the sins of the world, everyone would be saved. It would be universalism. That's not what the verse says. It says who takes away the sin of the world.

Sin, singular.

It's looking at it in its entirety. It's looking at it in its totality. And it's drawing attention to the person who does it. It might also be translated. Look at the Lamb of God, the taker away of the sin of the world.

[00:24:01] John was pointing to the person. He says he's the taker away of the sin of the world. He wasn't doing it at this particular point in time, but he's drawn attention to the person. There he is, the taker away of the sin of the world. The cross answers to heaven. The work of Christ is such that there's going to be a day when sin will be removed from God's universe, and when there will be a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwells righteousness, when there'll be a beautiful new creation, when all things are of God. And this is what's referred to in Hebrews 9, verse 26. Also, I know in the program it says 9, verse 23, but I think it's meant to be verse 26. At least I'm taking it as such. Speaking of the Lord Jesus, it says of him, now once in the end of the age of the world, it's the end of the Jewish age, the end of that time period when man had been tested. If you like the end of the Old Testament times and the end of the age, he's appeared. [00:25:05] And what is the consequence of his death? What does it reach forward to? And fullness and the culmination.

The purpose of his death was to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

That's a very exalted view of Christ's death, of Christ's sacrifice, and that takes us a very long way forward because it takes us into the new heavens and the new earth when all taint of sin shall be removed.

So there's much in Christ's victory, and it's a subject indeed for further meditation.

We've looked at what it is in itself. We've looked at his triumph over Satan and over principalities and powers. [00:26:01] We've seen the way in which he's overcome sin and the way in which he's overcome death. And we've looked at it in his own resurrection and in his own person. We've looked at the present effects for our enjoyment. We've looked at the consequences which will follow at his coming, and we've looked on to the full result in the eternal state.

What a victory Christ has won for us. May we be in the enjoyment of it.