

“Evil and Christ’s Victory”

Class 19

(Basic Christianity)

The Set Up: At the very heart of Christianity and its teaching is the acknowledgement of evil and the victory of Christ over evil. Tonight, in this class we intend to design a basic framework for understanding this important topic in the context of biblical teaching.

The Victory of Christ:

1. The victory of Christ: Categorically considered
 - 1) In perfectly keeping the moral law
 - 2) In payment for sin as an atoning sacrifice
 - 3) In rising from the dead in His resurrection
 - 4) In ascending to heaven exalted as the Mediating High Priest
 - 5) In His second coming as Lord of all

2. We need victory over evil.
 - 1) Because of sinfulness of our sin nature
 - 2) Because of the judgment of God on our sin
 - 3) Because of the devil’s activity in the world

3. Christ provides victory to believers.
 - 1) Christ provides victory in His saving work in His righteous obedience.
 - (1) Believers are clothed with Christ’s righteousness making us perfect in God’s sight.
 - (2) Believers are clothed with Christ’s righteousness justifying us in Christ’s sight.
 - (3) Believers are clothed with Christ’s righteousness establishing a saved personal relationship with Jesus.
 - 2) Christ provides victory in His atoning work on the cross.
 - (1) Christ’s atoning work absorbs the moral guilt of the believer’s sin.
 - (2) Christ’s atoning work fulfills the just condemnation of the moral law.
 - (3) Christ’s atoning work satisfies the wrath of God poured out on our sin.
 - 3) Christ provides victory at the cross for the believer’s crucifixion of sinful flesh.
 - (1) We are united to Christ’s death on the cross.
 - (2) Our sinful flesh was crucified with Christ.
 - (3) The cross impacts the believer through regeneration in the Spirit resulting in a new life in Christ.
 - 4) Christ provides victory in His resurrection and exaltation.
 - (1) Christ rose physically, powerfully, and victoriously from the dead.
 - (2) Christ rising from the dead defeated death.
 - (3) Christ rising from the dead became the Lord of life.
 - (4) Christ rising from the dead is the firstfruit of Christians rising in the resurrection.
 - 5) Christ provides the victory in His Lordship and Second Coming.
 - (1) Christ’s second coming will destroy the evil purposes and work of the devil.
 - (2) Material reality will be purged from its fallen condition, and it will be restored.
 - (3) Christ’s alive at Christ’s coming will be transformed into the new humanity in eternity.

- (4) The dead in Christ will physically rise, and their spirits will be re-united with their bodies.

Evil

1. The nature and ontological meaning of evil
 - 1) Evil, Satan, and Demons
 - (1) Fallen angels
 - (2) Promoting all things ungodly, immorality
 - (3) Pride
 - (4) Hatred and violence
 - 2) Evil and Rebellion against God
 - (1) Rebellion against God's exalted person and position
 - (2) Rebellion against God's worship
 - (3) Rebellion against God's moral law
 - (4) Rebellion against loving God
 - (5) Rebellion against yielding to God's will
 - 3) Evil and Oppression of Humanity
 - (1) Oppression of hatred – Evil hates humans as made in the image of God
 - (2) Oppression of pain and suffering – See what pain and suffering Satan caused in Job's life
 - (3) Oppression of deception – Manipulation and deception seek to trick people to leave God and dishonor God
2. Evil and human sin – The way Satan can attack God is by attacking humans, causing us to leave God. At the heart of this is SIN.
 - 1) Original Sin – Adam and Eve
 - 2) Total Depravity – The fallen nature is totally affected by sinfulness.
 - 3) Human Sin and Relational Brokenness – broken relations with God and others
 - 4) Human Sin and Societal Brokenness – historical and systemic brokenness in society
 - (1) Family
 - (2) Business
 - (3) Government
 - (4) Nations
 - (5) Cultures

Clarification

1. Jesus beat the devil in temptation (Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 4:15)
2. Jesus beat the devil at the cross (John 16:11; Hebrews 2:14)
3. Jesus delivers believers from darkness and brings us to light (Colossians 1:13).
4. Jesus won victory for believers at the cross overcoming the powers of darkness (Colossians 2:14-15)
5. Jesus has victory yet to be brought to our experience (Romans 16:20; Revelation 20:1-2, 10).
6. Some practical considerations:
 - 1) Jesus' victory is secured and total in the resurrection and His exaltation.
 - 2) Jesus' victory applied in Christian experience is sequentially engaged in keeping with the various categories of salvation (regeneration, sanctification, and glorification).

- 3) In sanctification, the believer is positionally victorious in Christ in the heavenlies (Eph. 1:3)
- 4) There is victory for the believer in justification, which is a declaration of God the Father on behalf of the atoning merits of Christ on the cross, establishing the believer's right relationship with God, the believer's righteous standing with God, and the true state of the believer's nature in the life of Christ (Romans 5:1).
- 5) Victory in sanctification of the believer is progressive, messy, complication, difficult, and often discouraging. However, the promise of God to complete sanctification is the believer's comfort in such times (Phil. 1:6; 1 Thess. 5:23-24; Jude 24).
- 6) Victory in the second coming of Christ is total and complete, destroying the impact of evil, and establishing God's perfect will in human experience and the universe forever.

Scripture

- 1 Corinthians 15:57 "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
- John 12:31-32 "Now is judgment upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."
- Colossians 2:14-15 "Having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him."
- John 16:33 "I have overcome the world"
- Romans 8:37 "We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."
- Revelation 12:10 "I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of the brethren has been thrown down.'"
- 1 John 4:4 "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world"
- Ephesians 6:10-11, 13 "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil...Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day"

Conclusion

In the study of evil and Christ's victory, we must come to realize two important truths. First, evil exists, but it is only temporary in its impact on human history and people. Second, Christ's victory through the incarnation and His saving work accomplished in the incarnation and applied in salvation, is the only victory there is over sin both in an individual's life, and only Christ's saving work in victory can provide hope and assurance for the world.