

New Creation Realities

September 2013

Triumphant!

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Colossians 2:15, NIV

Ancient Rome, world-conquering, had a spectacular habit of celebrating, with good reason, its many victories and conquests.

They had what history and Classics call "Triumphal Marches" or "Victory Parades". These were celebrations granted by the Senate, to laud the achievements and conquests of Roman Army generals. It was a parade through the streets of Rome with the spoils of war on show.

Perhaps the highlight of it was the fact that the conquered enemies or foes - Kings, Emperors, Army Generals and their families and others - were also marched in chains and then executed.

The reason for that is obvious: to humiliate them and show the watching public that these former Kings were actually now deposed and not anymore what they used to be. In an age that had no TV or such technologies, this was the way to announce and show, empirically, the destruction and annexation of a principality and its ruler.

See what I mean? The defeated King or Emperor or General is marched or dragged down streets in chains, seen by thousands and thousands of people. He is then executed with the same people as witnesses. That is all the PR you need.

It seems that the apostle Paul, a Roman citizen of no mean standing, was evoking these images when he talked about the Victory of our Lord over Satan, the forces of evil and sin in **Colossians 2:15**.

You have to pay some attention to his choice of words. The Lord openly, publicly shamed the devil – in front of the whole of creation. A public humiliation and disgracing of principalities and powers.

This is so definitive, so critical that we must consider other translations.

15 Disarming the rulers and authorities, he has made a public disgrace of them, triumphing over them by the cross.
(New English)

15 having stripped the principalities and the authorities, he made a shew of them openly--having triumphed over them in it. (Young's Literal)

15 And the hostile princes and rulers He shook off from Himself, and boldly displayed them as His conquests, when by the Cross He triumphed over them.
(Weymouth New Testament)

15 Principalities and powers he disarmed, and openly displayed them as his trophies, when he triumphed over them in the cross. (Montgomery NT)

15 Having made himself free from the rule of authorities and powers, he put them openly to shame, glorying over them in it. (Bible in Basic English)

15 He disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in him.
(Revised Standard Version)

Then, the sense is that He took away the devil's goods, having defeated him. Look at the words used: "*disarmed*", "*stripped*", "*spoiled them*". He spoiled them, took their "goods". Halleluyah!

Read the Montgomery again:
Principalities and powers he disarmed, and openly displayed them as his trophies! Hebrews 2 tells us more.
What did He take away from the devil?
What did He strip the devil of?

Hebrews 2

14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might **destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;**

Had the power, past tense: USED to, not ANYMORE.

Did you notice the word "destroyed"? The Lord destroyed the devil. He spoiled them, took away any power and authority that they had.

Revelations 1:18

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead;

behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and **have the keys of hell and of death.**

That's what He took from the devil. *The keys of hell and of death.* In other words, the *essence*, the *power*, the *authority*, the *supremacy* of hell and death.

Matt. 28:18 now makes spiritual sense.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth.**

Think about it. The devil actually, really has no power. That is what the Lord said!

This is the result and power of His resurrection. After the Lord died, we know He went to hell for 3 days; He conquered the devil. The Bible says that death could not hold Him captive; He was raised by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1 maintains that the resurrection was the **ultimate & greatest** demonstration of God's power.

But what does that mean for us today? After all, **Ephesians 1** adds that that demonstration of the power of God was done for the "benefit of the Church": in other words, for you and me.

First, it changes your view of the devil. Realize that he's a toothless, destroyed foe with a big mouth & treat him as such.

Then, it means the devil cannot lord it over us. We are not under his rule or authority; the devil, sin and demons have no power **whatsoever** over any Christian. We exercise dominion over the devil.

Our lifestyle is a continual Victory March daily demonstrating the defeat of the devil. We walk daily in a Triumphal Procession, celebrating our Lord's Victory over sin, demonic forces and the devil.

Some folks talk about battling and fighting the enemy. There is no battle. We stand up daily & enforce our victory and conquest. We rule in the midst of our defeated enemies. We stand our ground.

We seat at the table He prepared before us enjoying life abundantly in the presence of our destroyed enemies.

The Father is at the head of the table and out attention is focused on Him.

Heaven

I attended a meeting many years ago in which a pastor – easily the most prominent in Nigeria – preached a sermon titled something like, "*The 12 Marks of a Backslider*". He defined a backslider in so many ways that there was no way any Christian would have been exempt - so that when he made the altar call for backsliders to come forward for prayer, the whole congregation came forward.

If you used to pray for 1 hour last year, and now you do only half an hour, you are a backslider....on and on he went.

He said he himself was not sure that he would make it to heaven; he only hoped that God would count him worthy at the end.

In fact, he said that he had made a covenant with the Lord, asking Him to let him die one minute before he would fall into sin, so that he could make heaven.

I have had a lot time to reflect on this meeting and I thank God for light from His Word.

What do Christians mean when they say they are not sure of making heaven? Have you or have you not accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? If Christians preach to unbelievers to accept the Lord, telling them they will escape hell and be certain to go to heaven, why would Christians not be sure?

Think about it. If the death of our Lord on the cross, standalone, does not make us worthy to stand in God's presence, then why did He die? What did the Blood do but to make us worthy of the being in God's presence?

If you say Jesus is your Lord, and you still say you are not sure of heaven, it means you want to achieve or obtain your salvation by yourself or by your own "good" behavior. The book of Galatians says you have fallen from grace.

Nothing will do but Calvary's sacrifice.

Paul said work **out** your salvation. Not work **for** your salvation.

New Creation Realities

*A teaching ministry to the Body of Christ
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the Lord cometh!