

It's the End of the World as We Know It...And I Feel Fine "Part Four – A World Changing Victory"

Series Summary

It's the end of the world as we know it. The world is changing all around us. There is an increase in corruption, hatred, racism, war, death, and disease. Is all hopeless or is there hope to be found? One birth, one life, one death marks a transformational change to our world. Find the Hope you are looking for as we discover more about where our confidence, strength, and security comes from. A four week series that leads to Easter Sunday: A World Changing Conviction, A World Changing Forgiveness, A World Changing Sacrifice, & A World Changing Victory.

Big Idea

The Big Idea of this sermon is: **Victory** - God wants us to experience victory in this life not just for eternity. Jesus died to help you become victorious over the items that are plaguing your life today and tomorrow and to give you hope for eternity. This Easter message will show us the greatest victory of all time and will explain how this victory continues to change our lives today.

Three Observations on Rethinking Victory

BIG IDEA = Victory

- **Matthew 28:1-6** – After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.
- **Key Point** – The main point of this message is to examine how the world changing victory of Jesus Christ over death continues to change our world today. We will set out to **“Rethink Victory”** and define by God’s terms and not in terms of the world. As Christians, we have cause to celebrate for this victory over death and we have proof. The Tomb is Empty...Jesus is Risen...Jesus is Alive and through Him we will also live!

Observation #1 – This Victory Helps You Overcome Yesterday

- **1 Corinthians 15:54-57** – ⁵⁴When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” ⁵⁵“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Colossians 2:13-14** – ¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.
- **Key Phrase** – I’M FORGIVEN!

- **Key Point** – As we rethink victory we must understand that the greatest victory took place through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross which gave us hope yet that alone would not have proven to the world of complete victory. There was on part of the plan that still had to take place and that was the resurrection which completed the victory of Christ over death. He defeated sin and thus defeated death so that you would no longer be a prisoner to the tomb. Today we shout with joy *“I’m Forgiven”* because *He is Alive...He is Risen!*

Observation #2 – This Victory Empowers You Today

- **Isaiah 53:4-5** – But the fact is, it was our pains he carried—our disfigurements, all the things wrong with us. We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures. But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him—our sins! He took the punishment, and that made us whole. Through his bruises we get healed.
- **Ephesians 1:18-20** – I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms...
- **Key Phrase – I’M FREE!**
- **Key Point** – The victory of Christ over sin and death was not merely made complete by His death on the cross. We see people throughout the world that wear the cross as a necklace symbolizing their faith and their victory through Christ yet the truth is that we do not see the complete victory upon the cross. We see the complete victory three days later as the stone is rolled away and we witness the resurrection. The sacrifice of Christ upon the cross gives us Hope yet the resurrection gives us certainty of our victory. Today we cry with great vigor and gratitude *“I’m Free”* because *He is Alive...He is Risen!*
- **Play Video = Rethink Easter**

Observation #3 – This Victory Gives You Hope for Tomorrow

- **John 14:19** – Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.
- **1 Peter 1:3-5** – ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.
- **Key Phrase – I HAVE HOPE!**
- **Key Point** – The victory of Christ on the Cross and His Resurrection gives us a Hope of a better tomorrow, a tomorrow where we made whole and complete, a tomorrow where there is no tears, no sorrow, no suffering, only joy, peace, and praise for the Father. His death and resurrection brought Hope to the world but certainty of a better future and eternal life to those who would come to know Him as Savior. We who are in Him live because He lives so we lift our voices in praise and say *“I Have Hope”* because *He is Alive...He is Risen!*

Questions to Consider

- *How is this world changing victory changing your world today? Explain.*
- *How will you celebrate this victory this week?*

Memory Verse

Matthew 28:6 – He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

BIG Challenge

This week you will fill your life with many things: television, radio, newspaper articles, etc... Make a choice to actively fill yourself with God through prayer, reading the Word, memorizing Scripture, and application of ONE principle you have learned from God this week. *Give us your testimony about this.*

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