

Connect Service Notes

Living Well: Kingdom Principles for a Flourishing (Part 4): Remember the Victory of the Cross
Remember who you are in Christ

KTLC | 2pm 27 September
Key Scripture: Colossians 2:8-15 (NB 13-15)

¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

Colossians 2:13-15 (NRSVA)

We flourish not by trying to win a victory for ourselves, but by learning to live from the victory Jesus has already won. Memory shapes the way we live. If we remember only our failures, we may live cautiously. If we remember only our wounds, we may live defensively. If we remember only what we have lost, we may become afraid to hope again. Scripture repeatedly calls God's people to remember who God is, remember what God has done and remember the promises of God. Above all, we are called to remember Jesus Christ and the victory of the Cross. In **Colossians 2:14-15**, Paul describes the Cross as the place where something decisive happened. The record that stood against us was cancelled, the powers that held humanity captive were disarmed, and what appeared to be the defeat of Jesus became the victory of God.

1. Our past has been dealt with

Many of us carry an invisible record of regrets, failures and choices we wish we could reverse. Sometimes other people keep a record against us. Sometimes we keep one against ourselves.

The good news is that Jesus has dealt with the record that stood against us. The Cross does not pretend that sin is unimportant. It reveals both the seriousness of sin and the astonishing depth of divine grace. We do not have to build our identity around our worst day. There may still be consequences to face, apologies to make and patterns to change, but condemnation no longer has the final word. Conviction draws us towards Christ and transformation. Condemnation drives us into hiding and despair. **The Cross is greater than our guilt, and the mercy of God is deeper than our shame.**

2. The powers have been defeated

Paul says that God "disarmed the rulers and authorities". The Cross confronts not only the guilt within us, but also the powers around us. Comparison tells us that our lives matter only when they look better than someone else's. Achievement tells us that rest must be earned. Consumerism tells us that identity can be purchased. Fear tells us that obedience is too risky. Cynicism tells us that hope is naïve. These powers speak loudly, but they do not possess ultimate authority. At the Cross, Jesus exposed and defeated the powers of accusation, violence, fear, sin and death.

The struggle may be real, but the power is not ultimate. The habit may be strong, but it is not sovereign. The accusing voice may be loud, but it does not have the final word. **Jesus does.**

3. The Cross shows us how to live

The victory of the Cross becomes a pattern for our lives. God's victory does not look like the world's definition of success. The world says victory means climbing higher, protecting ourselves and defeating our enemies. Jesus goes lower, gives himself and loves his enemies.

A flourishing life is not necessarily the life with the most attention, money, influence or comfort. It is a life increasingly shaped by Jesus: a life in which love becomes stronger than fear, character becomes more important than image, and faithfulness matters more than applause. We are not trying to manufacture a victory.

We are learning to live from one. The debt has been cancelled. The powers have been disarmed. Christ is alive.
Therefore, live with humility, courage, freedom and hope.

Discussion questions

1. Which past mistake, regret or accusation are you tempted to make part of your identity? How does the Cross speak to it?
2. Which "power" most influences your life at present, such as comparison, achievement, fear, approval, consumerism or cynicism?
3. How does the Cross challenge the culture's definition of victory, success and flourishing?
4. What would it look like for you to live from Christ's victory in one practical area of your life this week?