Daily Devotion #95

We Won!

Revelation 20:10 – “*And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever*.”

In my younger years I played a lot of basketball. Growing up in a small town didn’t afford a lot of extras, so basketball was my go-to for fun. My brother and sister and I spent a lot of time on the little concrete court our dad had put in, dreaming of the big shot and the fancy move that would make us the star of the game.

Later, as we entered high school, my brother and I were asked to try out for the basketball team, not because we were particularly good at the sport but because we were tall and the school was small, so anyone who looked like they could make an impact for the team was asked to try out. Sure enough we made the team. Well, my brother made the varsity, and I made the junior varsity team, but still. Our team did fairly well the first year but nothing to write home about. At the end of that season, several of the junior varsity team were brought up to the varsity squad. And that team was fantastic. In fact, they made it to the district championship. I remember well the intensity and excitement of the game. It just so happened that we were playing our rivals, which made it all the more intense. As the final buzzer sounded, we had scored more points in the last few seconds and won the game. I remember vividly jumping up and down like I was bouncing on a trampoline, screaming at the top of my lungs, “We won! We won! We won!” It was over. The season was in the books, and we had won. That was so exciting.

As life progressed and God began to show me more of Himself, I began to understand that in life there are many wins and many losses. There are times of great joy and times of great sadness or discouragement. At points in life it seems there are more defeats that victories. And the Lord didn’t hold anything back when He told us that in this life we will have trouble. (John 16:33) He was honest. He was straight to the point. But He also said that we shouldn’t let this life get the best of us because He had overcome the world. It was like saying, “Don’t worry, because even though your life will be filled with ups and downs, joys and sorrows, victories and defeats, I have won the game.”

And that is exactly what we learn in the Gospels. When Jesus went to the Cross, He gave His life for ours. He sacrificed Himself through great pain and agony, so you and I could have victory. Not a temporary victory, but the ultimate victory. And the great part is, it’s a done deal. Our victory of overcoming this world and the evils of this world is confirmed. We have won!

When the Apostle John wrote Revelation, the Holy Spirit had him pen the words of our verse for today. The purpose of this verse is to once again prove to us that the devil and his demonic host are defeated. You may notice this hasn’t fully happened yet. Yes, that’s true, but when Jesus died on the cross and proclaimed, “It is finished” (John 19:30), He was saying to those who put their trust in Him that because of His death, His sacrifice for you, Satan and all His evil work against us is finished. He has no more power over you.

Think about it beloved. God has won! The victory is accomplished! Satan and his world will be cast into the eternal lake of fire, never to bother or control anyone or anything again. And even though that day has not fully been realized, because of Jesus’s death and resurrection, we too have been sealed in victory. Death, or the problems of this life, no longer have control over us. The Apostle Paul said it this way, 1 Corinthians 15:55 –“*O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” 56The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Don’t let the issues we are facing discourage you. Remember, you won! Jesus did it. He has defeated Satan. So, our job is to live by faith. Everyday trusting Jesus for what each day brings. And one day, you and I will leave this world and be with Him screaming at the top of our lungs, “We won! We won! We won!”.