

THE DOUBLE VICTORY

How The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Saves Us From "This Present Evil Age"

"The work of Christ is first and foremost a victory over the powers which hold mankind in bondage: sin, death, and the devil." - Gustav Aulén, *Christus Victor*, p.20

Paul uses six terms to refer to any one of the ancient triad: Sin, Death, Wrath, Present-Age, Law (Eye-for-an-Eye), and the Powers.

Acts 2.40—With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from **THIS CORRUPT GENERATION.**"

Galatians 1.4—Who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from **THE PRESENT EVIL AGE**, according to the will of our God and Father.

Matthew 5.38-45—You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not retaliate against an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Matthew 7.12-14—So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Hebrews 2.14—Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.

John 12.27,28—"Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."

John 10.30—"I and the Father are one."

John 14:9—Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father."

John 14.10 (NIV)—"Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? The words I say to you are not just My own. Rather, it is the Father, living in Me, who is doing His work."

Matthew 6.9-10—"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come . . .

That the world might be healed . . . – John 3.17

*All texts quoted from the TNIV unless otherwise noted.

I've seen too much hate to want to hate, myself, and every time I see it, I say to myself, hate is too great a burden to bear. Somehow we must be able to stand up against our most bitter opponents and say: "We shall match your capacity to inflict suffering by our capacity to endure suffering. We will meet your physical force with soul force. Do to us what you will and we will still love you. We cannot in all good conscience obey your unjust laws and abide by the unjust system, because non-cooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as is cooperation with good, so throw us in jail and we will still love you. Bomb our homes and threaten our children, and, as difficult as it is, we will still love you. Send your hooded perpetrators of violence into our communities at the midnight hour and drag us out on some wayside road and leave us half-dead as you beat us, and we will still love you. Send your propaganda agents around the country and make it appear that we are not fit, culturally and otherwise, for integration, but we'll still love you. But be assured that we'll wear you down by our capacity to suffer, and one day we will win our freedom. We will not only win freedom for ourselves; we will appeal to your heart and conscience that we will win you in the process, and our victory will be a double victory.— Martin Luther King Jr., A Christmas Sermon for Peace on Dec 24, 1967

Matthew 20:22, 23—"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "**YOU WILL INDEED DRINK FROM MY CUP**, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

Romans 16:20—The God of peace will soon crush Satan under **YOUR FEET**.

Acts 10.38-40—How **GOD** anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were **under the power of the devil**, because **GOD was with him**. We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. **THEY** killed him by hanging him on a cross.

Acts 3.13-15—The **GOD** of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. **YOU** handed him over to be killed, and **YOU DISOWNED HIM** before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. **YOU DISOWNED** the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. **YOU KILLED** the author of life.

Acts 2.22-24—"People of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by **GOD** to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was given to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and **YOU**, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

Luke 9.21-22— . . . And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

Luke 19.45-20.2—When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. . . . the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

Luke 22.4—And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard . . .

Luke 22.52—Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him . . .

John 18.37-38—"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." "What is truth?" retorted Pilate.

John 19.10—"Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

Luke 9.22-24—And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

John 3.17—For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to heal the world through him.

