

Saturday, 7/17/21 at 4:00 & Sunday, 7/18/21 at 9:00



Bible References: The 1995 Version of the New American Standard Bible

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: As we live here on earth, we can put on the blinders – *like a racehorse*, focusing on our own little world and blocking out everything else. Why is that a problem? **Because** Jesus calls us be **salt and light** (Mt. 5:13-16); those two things *make a difference!*



How do we function as salt and light? By **living** and **sharing** God's Truth! Paul wrote this regarding the believers in Corinth: **"You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men"** (2 Cor. 3:2). In other words, as people **see us** and **hear us**, *they are reading us*; **so**, may our lives **be** in harmony with God's Word **and** **point** people to Jesus!

One way for us to begin to **remove** the blinders, **think** about others, and **share** God's Truth – is to wear a **Jesus' Victory Tour** shirt (*order yours between now and July 26; contact Kathy G*). Now, let us focus on **the** writing on the shirt and **what** those words mean for us and for others.

1. **Shirt Front: Who Won the Victory?** The question is intended to get people thinking... Who? What victory?

The Bible reference: “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; **but** thanks be to God, who gives us the **victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**” (1 Cor. 15:56-57).

The enemies were ✦Satan, ✦sin, and ✦death, **but JESUS, the Son of God in human flesh, won the victory over them all!** Then, in A.D. 30, *right after He won*, He went on a victory tour ➡to **hell**, then ➡to **earth**, then ➡to **heaven**. Jesus’ Victory Tour is laid out on the back of the shirt.

## 2. **Shirt Back: Jesus’ Three Stops:**

a. **First Stop – HELL:** From His cross, Jesus’ declared His victory: “**It is finished**” (John 19:30); then He laid down His life (Luke 23:46). The Bible tells us what Jesus accomplished: “...Christ also died for sins once for all... so that He might bring us to God... [then, after God raised Jesus to life on the third day] **He went and made proclamation [of His victory] to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient...**” (1 Peter 3:18-19).<sup>1</sup>

1. To whom did Jesus proclaim? *To those in hell who, during their earthly lives, refused to repent – especially when Noah was building the ark<sup>2</sup> and calling the people to repent (2 Pet. 2:5).*
2. What did Jesus proclaim? His victory over sin, death, and Satan – **NOT** to give a second chance, **BUT** to declare that their punishment is deserved!
3. What is important for everyone today? *Be repentant (these are the 5 parts: sin, hell, helpless, sorrow, faith) and always continue in repentance!*

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<sup>1</sup> For valuable research on Jesus’ descent into hell, see: Phillip B. Giessler, Solving New Testament Mysteries with Old Testament Clues (Ishpeming, MI: Book Venture Publishing, 2019), 228-246.

<sup>2</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/bible-timeline/how-long-did-it-take-for-noah-to-build-the-ark/>

- b. **Second Stop – EARTH:** For the men and women who trusted in Jesus and followed Him, ♣ Good Friday was *gut-wrenching* and ♣ Holy Saturday was *filled with sorrow*. Then, *early on Sunday morning*, some of those women entered Jesus' tomb, **but His body was gone**. Then, “*behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; and as the women were terrified..., the men said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen’*” (Luke 24:1-6). These are some other key ♣ events and ♣ words recorded in [Luke chapter 24](#):
- i. Those women reported everything to Jesus' other disciples: **However**, their “*...words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them*” (11). Even today, many refuse to believe, **OR**, they **SAY** they believe, **YET** their believing makes no difference in their lives. James wrote, “*Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead*” (2:17).
  - ii. Two of those unbelieving men met Jesus on their way to Emmaus (*seven miles northwest of Jerusalem*): “*While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them. But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. And He said to them, ‘What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?’ [Then, after they explained the whole situation, Jesus] ...said to them, ‘O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ... Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures’* (15-27). **So**, let us be certain: *The Bible is ALL ABOUT JESUS!*

iii. Jesus appeared to His disciples: “...He... stood in their midst and said to them, ‘Peace be to you.’ ... [He also said:] ‘...it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations... ‘You are witnesses of these things’” (36-48). During Jesus’ 40 days on earth, He proclaimed His victory! For us, right now, Jesus is making a HUGE difference in our lives – *forgiveness, peace, joy*, so let us wear a **Jesus’ Victory Tour** shirt to proclaim Him to others!

c. **Third Stop – HEAVEN**: About 35 years earlier, the Son of God left heaven to accomplish a HUGE mission; **then** – *after ♦winning His victory, ♦stopping briefly in hell, and ♦spending 40 days on earth* – Jesus told His disciples: “...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses... to the remotest part of the earth.’ [Then] ...He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight” (Acts 1:1-11). **So, Jesus ascended into heaven to proclaim His victory!**

**Conclusion**: Also, on the back of the shirt...

- **Truth** – Jesus defeated **sin, death**, and the **devil!**
- **Relevance** – Jesus is the **Way**, the **Truth**, and the **Life!**
- **Inspiration** – Jesus wants **YOU** to share in His **Victory!**

**Let Us Pray**: Dear Jesus, **You** ♦were promised, ♦came, ♦won, and ♦will come again! *Now, as we live on earth, give us peace, give us courage, and make us salt and light to others!*

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