

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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September 30, 2018

### “Victory”

By Phillip Keathley

***Psalm 98:1 “Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.”***

Is there anyone who ever prefers to be on the losing side? Young children race each other to see who is the fastest. The victor celebrates their accomplishment. Students compete to have the highest GPA. The one who becomes valedictorian celebrates their accomplishment. When teams compete in sports one team outscores the other and celebrates their victory.

We celebrate the victory of our preferred political candidate and also when our favorite team wins the big game! However, the common thread of these types of victories is that they are only temporary. That kind of glory doesn't last long!

Paul even states as much in 1 Corinthians 9:25, “*And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*” The wreath or crown the winner of an earthly race received was to be considered a perishable or temporary prize.



But the writer of Psalm 98:1 points us toward the Source of the greatest victory we could ever hope to achieve. This thought is further expounded in the next verse: ***Psalm 98:2, “The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.”***

The salvation of God opens our hearts and minds to the idea that— like those striving to overcome their adversary in a competition or battle such as war,— in a spiritual sense, we too are striving to overcome our adversary.

However, unlike a sporting match, the stakes are not who gets the championship ring. Nor, like a physical war, the stakes are not over land or political ideology. The stakes are much higher. The stakes are for souls of people and our opponent is both ruthless and unrelenting (1 Peter 5:8).

In order to have the victory celebration for our soul, requires us to focus on the prize of Heaven (Phil 3:14). Those who endure will be crowned victorious (James 1:12) with the crown of life. These are also those who persevere as good soldiers and will be crowned victorious (Peter 5:4) with the crown of glory. The path to victory is through temperance or self-control (I Corinthians 9:25).

Any successful team or army has a leader that is devoted, determined, decisive, and demonstrative of the character traits needed in their followers. Sometimes we refer to such as the team captain. The writer of Hebrews, in discussion Jesus, makes a similar reference in Hebrews 2:10— by referring to Jesus, “*in bringing many sons to*

glory, to make the captain of their salvation....” Only by following Jesus, can we overcome the adversary and be victorious.

The adversary used deceit in the Garden of Eden, and mankind since, has suffered its consequences – sin and death. However, by following Jesus to the end, we can and will be victorious. 1 Corinthians, 15:50-54, tells of the victory, particularly in verse 54, we read of the victory we have over death as a result of Jesus. That victory is greater than any other victory we could ever have! Paul concludes his thoughts about the resurrection by saying in 1 Corinthians 15:57, “*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

How do we obtain the victory through Jesus? In 1 John 5:4 we are told “*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.*” Overcoming the world and achieving the victory is connected to Jesus (John 16:33) and the kind of faith in Jesus that is an obedient faith. In 1 John 5:3, the scriptures discuss the idea that loving God includes keeping His commandments. (John 14:15)

Paul reminds us that there is no place for cheaters in this race. In regard to this, please note 2 Timothy 2:5, “*And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.*” One cannot win by playing fast and loose with God’s word! Many may say, “*Well, the Bible doesn’t say NOT to!*” But in reality, God has already spoken. We need to be careful not add to, take away, or even ignore what God has written (Proverbs 30:6; Deuteronomy 4:2; Galatians 1:6-9).

Do you want to have the victory over temptation and the Devil? Do you want to have victory over sin and death? It starts with you submitting to Jesus as, “*the Author and Finisher of our faith*” (Hebrews 12:2) and “*...the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.*” (Hebrews 5:9)

Paul would speak of our victory— that to the world looks like defeat— in Romans 8:37, “*Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*” And even though we may not seem to be winning— one day we will be shown by our Lord Jesus Christ to be the ones who gained the greatest victory of all!

Lord, may we preserve on to the victory in Jesus!

**GOSPEL MEETING** Trey Haskett  
Sunday October 21st  
Monday-Friday 22nd-26th  
7:00 PM Nightly

## “Is This The Same Peter Who Denied Jesus THREE TIMES?”

By Jarrod Jacobs

Recently, I received the following question in response to a video I did where I taught from I Peter 3:1-7. As I thought about an answer, I know a simple “Yes” would suffice. Then I wondered if this would have been the kind of reaction Peter got to his preaching when he was alive.

Perhaps someone who heard Peter preach on Pentecost might have thought, “Is this the same Peter who denied Jesus three times just a month and a half ago?” Might some apostle, in a moment of weakness, have wondered the same thing as Peter opened the door to the kingdom that the world might know salvation (Acts 2:38; Matt. 16:16-19)? We do not read about things like this in the New Testament, but because people are people, I am sure that this was not an original question our viewer asked me.

What about Peter? Might there have been times when he might have asked this of himself? Might he have wondered, “Who am I to preach the truth? I denied Christ three times!” I know Paul felt guilt over the sins of his past (Acts 22:4-5, 26:9-11; I Corinthians 15:9; I Tim. 1:12-15). Surely, it would not be a stretch of the imagination to think these types of feelings would haunt Peter from time to time as well.

Yet, I believe the actual point to be made here is to be reminded that regardless of one’s sin, there is salvation and forgiveness to be found in Christ (Mk. 16:16). The blood of Christ makes salvation possible (Matt. 26:28). In so

doing, Christ has made a way by which all men, including Peter, can be forgiven of sin. We do not have to live in the past, nor is it right for people to bring up past sins when we have found forgiveness in Christ.

Yes, the same Peter who denied Christ three times was the same one who wrote two epistles bearing his name. However, because of the forgiveness of Christ, Peter can forget what he did and move beyond the sins of the past. We need to do the same.

Friend, what sin(s) have you committed in your life? Does your sin define you? I hope not. Forgiveness is found in Christ and a new life awaits you where you can be free from sin if you will just obey what the Lord has commanded (Mk. 16:16: Acts 2:38)!

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Nicky Curtis, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Gaddy Hall, Janis Johnson, Delain Doles, Daniel Holloway, Cameron Hutchinson, Ava Lynn (Betty Hurst's granddaughter), and Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece).

Keep Robbie and Delain in your prayers, as they are traveling back to Atlanta Tuesday.

**Our Gospel Meeting** with Trey Haskett begins Sunday—October 21st to the 26th.  
(7:00 PM Nightly— Monday thru Friday)

Other Local Gospel Meeting on the Bulletin Board in foyer.

#### **Those Who Serve:**

##### **Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Adam Harris  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon:** "Is Gambling A Sin?"

##### **Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am**

Fred Johnson  
The Book of John (Mike Willis)  
Page 45, Question #9

##### **Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Lee Busby  
Luke 8:22-25  
**Song Leader:** Chris Callahan  
**Lord's Table:** Fred Johnson  
**Assisting:** Dan Cottrell & Paul Busby  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon:** "Keeping Our Faith Through the Storms of Life"  
**Closing Prayer:** Jerry Kennemur

#### **Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

##### **October 3rd:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Johnson  
1 & 2 Kings (Mike Willis)  
Page 56, Question #22  
**Invitation:** Paul Busby  
**Song Leader:** Adam Harris  
**Closing Prayer:** Nathan Meade