

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

288 A

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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MY NAME

DATE

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WHAT CONSTITUTES VICTORY IN JESUS?

- Our Theme** A respected brother recently commented that the escalating slippage in our churches wasn't fixable. He said, "No matter how hard we try, or what means we use, there's absolutely nothing we can do to stem the tide." Another dedicated and erudite brother wrote, "I sometimes feel I have not done very much while I have been here." Sound gloomy and hopeless? Perhaps gloomy, but we deny hopeless. Paul said: (Phil 3:8) "*I have suffered the _____ of _____ things, and do count them but _____, that I may _____ Christ.*"
- Life Is Like A Marathon** We start strongly, then run, and run, and run. It seems it will never end. The faithful get jaded toward the end, tired, worn out, longing only to make it to the finish line. (2 Tim 3:12) "*Yea, and all that will _____ in Christ Jesus _____ suffer persecution.*" The race of life isn't easy. The Apostle said (Heb 12:1) that we must "*run with _____ the race that is _____.*"
- What Does Victory Mean?** We mean victory in Jesus. But how can we feel victorious in a rapidly secularizing society where even the Lord's Church is experiencing considerable decline and departure from the faith? We know that God has no quota system. Human nature likes to see visible progress. How do we claim victory when morality and scriptural purity is in rapid decline? We know (1 Jn 5:4) that "*this is the _____ that overcometh the _____, even our _____.*" It is hypocritical to condemn purely emotion-driven religiosity if we are unable to adequately (Prov 3:5) "*_____ in the LORD with _____ thine heart; and lean not unto thine _____ understanding.*" Jeremiah will be in heaven. Who did he convert?
- Hopeless?** (Rom 8:24) "*We are _____ by _____.*" Paul plainly writes (Col 1:23, 27) of "*the _____ of the _____*" and of "*Christ in you, the _____ of _____.*" The word *hopeless* means lacking hope. We cannot be saved if victory in Jesus is hopeless.
- Faith Involves Hope** (Heb 11:1) "*Now faith is the substance of things _____, the evidence of things _____.*" Bible hope = desire + expectation. If you don't have both you are lacking in saving faith. The faithful (2 Jn 1:8) shall "*receive a _____ reward.*"
- How Much Will It Take?** All people of faith introspect. What do we see when we honestly examine our bare souls? Remember, (1 Cor 15:19): "*If in this life _____ we have _____ in _____, we are of all men most _____.*" Can we maintain hope even if our seeming best efforts appear unfruitful? Solomon's admonition comes to mind: (Eccl 9:10) "*Whatsoever thy _____ findeth to do, do it with thy _____.*" Good King Josiah (2 Ki 22:2) "*turned not _____ to the _____ hand or to the _____.*" Friend, "*Press toward the mark.*"
- Our Reward Yet Awaits** (Gal 6:9) "*Let us not be _____ in well doing: for in _____ we shall _____, if we faint not.*" Heaven will surely be worth it all!