

LIVING TODAY IN THE FUTURE – eternity

LIVING OUR LIFE IN VICTORY – OF THE CROSS

by Jerry Wuerflein

Habakkuk 2:12-14

“How terrible it will be for you who build cities with money gained by murder and corruption! Has not the Lord Almighty promised that the wealth of nations will turn to ashes? They work so hard, but all in vain! *For the time will come when all the earth will be filled, as the waters fill the sea, with an awareness of the glory of the Lord.*”

The power to live as a Christian comes from the Holy Spirit. Because Christ died and rescued us from sin, we are free from sin's control. God gives us the power and understanding to live according to his will and to do good. Then we will look forward to Christ's wonderful return with eager expectation and hope.

Titus 2:11-15

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with self-control, right conduct, and devotion to God, while we look forward to that wonderful event when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing what is right. You must teach these things and encourage your people to do them, correcting them when necessary. You have the authority to do this, so don't let anyone ignore you or disregard what you say.”

It is not enough to renounce sin and evil desires; we must also live actively for God. To fight against lust, we must say no to temptation, but we must also say yes to active service for Christ.

Christ's freeing us from sin opens the way for him to purify us. He freed us from sin by purchasing our release from the captivity of sin with a ransom. (Mark 10:45) This verse reveals not only the motive for Jesus' ministry but also the basis for our salvation. A ransom was the price paid to release a slave. Jesus paid a ransom for us because we could not pay it ourselves. His death released all of us from our slavery to sin. The disciples thought Jesus' life and power would save them from Rome; Jesus said his *death* would save them from sin, an even greater slavery than Rome's. We are not only free from the sentence of death for our sin, but we are also purified from sin's influence as we grow in Christ.

Paul told Titus to teach the Scriptures as well as to live them. We must also teach, encourage, and correct others when necessary. It is easy to feel afraid when others are older, more influential in the community, or wealthier. Like Titus, we should not let ourselves be threatened when we are trying to minister to others or provide leadership in the church.

***WE HAVE VICTORY IN OUR LIFE; WE KNOW WE HAVE THE VICTORY.
THINK VICTORY; LIVE IN VICTORY OVER OUR FEARS AND OVER OUR
DEBTS. THERE IS VICTORY IN LOVE, because Jesus and the cross gave
us the VICTORY.***

We are living in grace – for eternity!