

It's Not About Who Wins, It's About Who Won

The Exclusivity of Jesus Revelation 1:17-18

Life among most people centers on some form of winning. He or she who dies the most stuff wins! Wealth, prestige, power, recognition, education, etc. are avenues used to "win." These common means of reaching the worldly aspirations of life might all find place in the broader context of Christianity. However, in the worldly race to "win," they all lead to eventual ruin. Life is not about such things. The truth of this point was made quite compellingly by an unschooled, poor, carpenter who's prestige rating at death bordered on nil—but He won!

We Cannot Win

- We have all sinned (Rom. 3:23)
- Thus, we deserve death (Rom. 6:23)
- One sin is enough (Jas. 2:10)
- Think about it., look around—things are in a mess!

We Can Take No Earthly Attainment With Us

- Moths and rust rule (Matt. 6:19-20)
- All forms of privilege perish (Ps. 73:1-28)
- Poor and rich alike end up in a grave (Ecc. 3:19-20; 9:2)

Denial Is Not Just a River in Egypt

- The games people play to pretend to be important don't work
- We are what we are, sinners out of fellowship with God
- Even if we were what we pretend to be, we would still lose

True Victory

- Only Jesus won (Rev. 1:17-18)
- Only Jesus can bring us victory (I Cor. 15:55-58)
- We must accept the victory and remain true to the implications of our choice (I Jn. 1:7; Rev. 2:10b)
- Such things are what truly matter; they deal with life and death—they center on the only one who ever won.

Indeed, the key to life is first to lose. Since we cannot win, this makes perfect sense. In the realization of loss comes the possibility to win through Jesus (Matt. 10:39). We must remember *who* won.