

## Death is defeated; Reigning in life

When we think of defeat and reigning, we often think about sport. The one team is defeated and the other reign as the champions. A boxer contends for a title and defeats the present champion to reign as the present champion. It gives the connotation of sovereignty where the sovereign ruler reigns over his subjects. Often kings contended for land and defeated their rivals to take over their land and then reigned over it. So, Christ contended for our lives, won them over so that we can reign in life. But what are the enemies that had to be defeated for us to reign in life?

Romans 5:15-21

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! <sup>16</sup> Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. <sup>17</sup> For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

<sup>18</sup> Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

<sup>20</sup> The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,

<sup>21</sup> so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### 1) Our hopelessness

- Ephesians 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.
- Wherever death reigns there is always hopelessness
- Sin puts us into a place of hopelessness, it never shows us a way out
  - Sin binds and does not set free, or offer a way of freedom
  - Sin darkens life, and does not show any light
  - Sin destroys relationships and never mends them
- Sin affects many. It's not just a personal matter
  - Substance abusers destroy their own lives and the lives of those around them. They often lose their jobs causing them to end up on the street
  - Adulterers destroy their families through their affairs
  - Those with violent tempers destroy themselves and the lives of those on whom they unleash their tempers
  - The corrupt bring hardship on others by indirectly stealing from them and society
- It's in this world of darkness that we grapple around trying to find meaning in life, and mostly look for it in the wrong places
  - Wrong relationships
  - Vices such as alcohol, drugs or gambling
  - Work and success
  - Religion
  - Self-worth
  - Wrong identity, such as boys think they're girls and vice versa
- Instead of bring satisfaction, peace and joy, these plunge us into a deeper darkness of guilt, shame and despair
- It is no wonder that Paul highlighted the wickedness of sin
  - Romans 7:13 In order that sin might be recognized as sin, it used what is good to bring about my death, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

## 2) Death is defeated

- It is in this scenario that Jesus came into the world to suffer the horrors of a sinful world.
- He came as a pure man to take our sin and all its consequences; all its darkness; all its shame on Himself at that cross.
- He suffered the cruelty of the world when He was unjustly condemned, spat on, sworn at, mocked, beaten, scourged, and finally crucified.
- This left His followers in horrified despair when their hope of a better world was crushed on that cross.
  - They had not yet understood what all Jesus had come to do.
- In dying on that cross, He took all of the hopelessness that sin introduced into this world onto Himself.
- He was placed in a tomb
- His disciples went back to doing whatever they did before – many of them went fishing
  - They were all probably trying to make sense of their life of following Him for three and a half years.
  - They were all probably confused and didn't know the way ahead
- But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead
  - He rose victorious
  - Not only had He condemned and defeated sin in His broken body on the cross, but now He had even defeated death itself
- It is in this victory that he does not only give us victory over sin, but He grants us life – new life, abundant life, eternal life

## 3) Reigning in life

- Romans 5:17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!
- In life Christ's righteousness is transferred to us that we aren't weighed down by the weight of sin any longer, but walk in the freedom that Christ gives
  - Galatians 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.
- We don't reign in life in our own strength, but through Jesus who makes it possible
- Reigning in life means that we reign over sin, our emotions, our decisions to do what is right in the eyes of God
  - We reign by doing the right thing even when everyone else is doing the wrong thing
  - We reign by living according to the character of Christ in the midst of a world of darkness
- We reign because His life is within us and He reigns over us
- Have we submitted ourselves to His Lordship so that He, the risen Christ, may reign sovereignly over us?