

We Are Teammates (“Fellow workers”) on God’s Winning Team
1 Corinthians 3:9
Discipleship Emphasis 2021
October 3, 2021

Bible Study 4: “We are the Champions ... of What?”

Discuss: Share a time when you lost a championship game, or you experienced another form of loss in your life? Share a time when you won a championship or when you experienced a “win” in life?

We are champions on God’s winning team! So, what have we won?

- **The devil is defeated.** (1 John 3:8, *“Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”*; Hebrews 2:14-15, *“14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.”*)

- **The world is overcome.** Romans 8:31, 37, *“If God is for us who can be against us? ... “No, in all these things we are more than victorious through Him who loved us.”* John 16:33, *“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”*

- **Our sin is forgiven** -- As Christians, we are already champions because of Jesus’ dying on the cross for our sin. Colossians 2:13-15, *“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by **triumphing** over them in him.”*

- **Death is conquered.** When we die, we are crowned as champions. Revelation 2:10b, *“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”* 1 Corinthians 15:54-58, *“When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is*

swallowed up in victory.” 55 “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

What role did we play in this championship victory? None! Who receives all the accolades for our victory? Jesus! **Revelation 5:9-10**, “And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

The Bible says in **Proverbs 23:7**, “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”

Discuss: With the previous Bible passages in mind, and in light of the following Bible passages, how does being a champion affect how you *interpret* your life ... *live* your life ... *shape* your life’s purpose?

- **2 John 6-9**, “And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for but **may win a full reward**. 9 Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.”
- **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**, “For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might **win** more of them. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to **win** Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might **win** those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might **win** those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might **win** the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might **save** some. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.”
 - **NOTE:** The word “win,” used in 1 Corinthians 9 is not an athlete term, but it is a word from the world of commerce which means, “to win, to gain, to make a profit.”

- **2 Corinthians 2:14-17**, *“But thanks be to God, who in **Christ always leads us in triumphal procession**, and **through us spreads** the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. 15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 16 to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? 17 For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.”*
- **Ephesians 4:8**, *“Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”*
- **Luke 10:17-20**, *“The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” 18 And he said to them, “**I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven**. 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. 20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”*

Championship teams do not win championships without experiencing the “*agony of defeat*” and the “*thrill of victory*.” **Discuss:** What are some “*agonies of defeat*” you have experienced? How might these “*agonies of defeat*” been used by the Lord to give you “*thrill of victory*?” What “*thrills of victory*” have you experienced as a member of God’s winning team?

Our Victory Song!

(“**Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds**” – LSB 465:3-4)

Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
 Set heart and will on things above
 That we conquer through your triumph;
 Grant grace sufficient for life’s day
 That by our lives we truly say:
 “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Adoring praises now we bring
 And with the heav’nly blessed sing:
 “Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!”
 Be to the Father, and our Lord,
 To Spirit blest, most holy God,
 All the glory, never ending!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!