

Our Triumphal Procession

- A. One of the most spectacular celebrations in the ancient world was the Roman triumph.
 - 1. "It is impossible to describe the multitude of the shows as they deserve, and the magnificence of them all." (Josephus, an eye-witness of one Triumph)
 - 2. "I waged wars on land and on sea... In my Triumphs nine kings or children of kings were led before my chariot." (Caesar Augustus, 27 BC-14 AD)
- B. Images of Roman conquests and the triumphs that followed were spread throughout the empire.
 - 1. Coins depicted conquered foes and victorious generals.
 - 2. Triumphal arches were scattered throughout the provinces like billboards advertising Roman dominance. In fact, the first-century visitor to Corinth would have entered its main market through a magnificent triumphal-styled arch.
- C. In or around A.D. 56, the apostle Paul wrote a second letter to the church in Corinth in the midst of a difficult situation. That letter contains these words: "*But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession...*" (2:14).

I. The Lord of Glory: All-Conquering Christ Jesus

- A. The glorious triumph of Jesus is not some uncertain hope for the future, but a clear and present occurrence (*Matt 28:18; Acts 2:24, 33-36; 5:31; 1 Cor 15:25; 1 Pet 3:22; Col 2:14b-15*).
- B. He has overcome, not with the sword (*John 18:11*) or with the legions of angels he could have commanded (*Matt 26:53*), but with self-sacrificial love (*John 10:17-18; Col 1:19-20; 2:13-14*).
- C. Envision his glorious triumph (*Rev 5:5-6; 2 Cor 13:4*).
 - 1. The conquered captives (*Eph 4:8*).
 - a. _____ (*Rom 8:39; 1 Cor 10:13; Rom 8:33; John 10:14*).
 - b. _____ (*Rom 8:1; Heb 9:14; Rom 6:19; 1 John 2:2; John 8:34-36*).
 - c. _____ (*Heb 2:14-15; 1 John 3:2*).
 - 2. The victor's song (*Psa 24:7-10*).

II. Our Place in the Triumph

- A. Don't miss this point! He leads us captive as well (*Rom 6:22, 1-11; 2 Cor 2:14-16*).
 - 1. We "*spread the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.*"
 - a. It attracts some (*Matt 5:16*).
 - B. It repels others (*John 15:18; 1 Cor 1:22-24*).
 - 2. The way in which we are being led is the way of the cross (*Matt 16:24; 2 Cor 4:7-10*).
- B. The victory of our Lord is already complete! He now reigns! All that hangs in the balance, yet to be decided, is our individual responses (*Revelation; 2 Pet 3:9; 1 Cor 11:1*).
- C. How are we to assure our fate? By faith! (*1 John 5:4; Heb 11:1; 2 Cor 4:16-18*).
- D. "*Therefore...*" (*2 Cor 4:1; 5:11, 14-20*). The power is supplied. The victory is assured. God has won it through Jesus Christ and is willing to share it with you (*1 Cor 15:57*).