

Thine Is the Glory



This is an Easter hymn that tells the resurrection story in strong poetry and music. The imagery rightly speaks of victory of sin and death. But, this hymn has a “second resurrection” in it. The second resurrection is our rising above triumphalism, that statement of victory that makes us feel superior to others. The second resurrection takes place in stanza three: “Make us more than conquerors, through Thy deathless love.”

We are to be much more than conquerors. There is victory here, it is Jesus’ victory. His victory should cause us to be humble, ready to sacrifice, and anything but triumphal. We are more than conquerors, we are servants after the example of Jesus. In-your-face macho-ism is not Christ-like. It is worldly, but not Christ-like. We are to be little Christs, reflecting his heart and mind. There is no such thing as bullying for Jesus. Privilege is disdained by the Christ-follower, not sought after and protected. We are more than conquerors, precisely because of Jesus’ victory over sin and death.

There is no glory for us, except in the cross of Christ and His empty tomb. Both of those are His doing, divine acts. Anytime Christianity goes to war, it is something other than Jesus, something other than Christ-following. We are more than conquerors, we are sacrificial sharers of life’s essential resources in the manner and the love of our risen Lord.

We are not to be triumphal winners and conquerors in this win-or-lose world. Jesus’ resurrection defeated the need for such relationships to people and resources. We are more than conquerors, we have been set free to die daily, to be last, to welcome strangers and love enemies, all for the glory of God.

Such thinking is upside down foolishness in the kingdom of this world. But since the resurrection of Jesus, the validation of the gospel, it is the new right side up normalcy for the Kingdom of God, now at hand on the earth.

Dizzying isn’t it? Upside down is right side up, death to self is life abundant, first is last and last is first: the poles shifted when the stone rolled away. Jesus was the gospel, taught the gospel, lived the gospel for three years. When he rose from the grave he validated the gospel forever. “No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life!”

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