

Devotion 17
Therefore . . . (# 1)

Tuesday, Week 3

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:57-58)

Pastor Brad Cusson relates this story: “When I was about 6 years old, my brother woke me up early one morning and said, “Brad, we’re going to build a fort in the backyard.” And we did. We went to construction sites and got bent nails that we straightened out, as well as scrap lumber. We laid out the plans and buried two corner poles very deep in the ground. Why only two poles? Because we used a brick wall for one of the sides. We knew that wall would never give way. Over the next year or two we built a structure that had several rooms and two stories as well as a staircase. It was truly an eye sore for all the neighbors to see! But we were sure it would never fall down. That brick wall was solid as a rock!”

“Therefore . . .” Whenever you see this word in the Bible, it is good to ask, “What brick wall does it point to that is supporting the rest of the thought?” In short, what is the “therefore” there for? The “therefore” in our text points to some of the most glorious proclamations in the entire Bible about our resurrection victory in Christ: *BECAUSE* “we shall not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet” (v. 51, 52); *BECAUSE* “the dead will be raised imperishable and we will be changed” (v. 52); *BECAUSE* “death has been swallowed up in victory” (v. 54); *BECAUSE* God “gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (v. 56); *THEREFORE* (and listen to the stewardship message here), “stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

Through the years Brad had the fort, he says that he and his brother probably took the brick wall for granted way too often. They actually thought it was their building prowess that made the fort so stable. But it wasn’t. It was that brick wall.

As you and I anticipate stepping out in faith with respect to our stewardship lives in the kingdom, it is instructive to remember that some of the strongest stewardship words in the Bible are built squarely on the solid brick wall of our complete victory over death in Jesus Christ. Today, it might be good to just meditate on and rejoice in this “brick wall” upon which our lives of stewardship are built. “Listen, I tell you a mystery . . . Death has been swallowed up in victory! Therefore, stand firm! Your labor in the Lord is not ever in vain. It will never come tumbling down. For the ‘brick wall’ of Christ’s resurrection victory stands sure!” Praise God!

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, I thank You for the resurrection victory that is sure and certain for me through my Savior, Jesus Christ. Send me the Holy Spirit in extra measure, I pray, through Your Word, that I might boldly build my stewardship life on the rock-solid “brick wall” of Jesus and His resurrection victory I have in Him, and in whose name I pray. Amen!