

GOD'S VICTORY OVER EVIL

Don Richardson

July 2014

Twin Peaks Conference Center

GOD'S MORAL VICTORY OVER SATAN

Colossians 2:15

...having disarmed the powers and authorities . . . made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

The problem is—sometimes a moral victory may also be a PYRRHIC one.

**THE RATIO OF PEOPLE WHO ARE
SAVED vs. THOSE WHO ARE LOST
DEPENDS ON WHAT SCRIPTURE
SAYS ABOUT THE ETERNAL
DESTINY OF DECEASED YOUNG
CHILDREN.**

***First-year-of-life* death rates as a percent of live births in the 10 “most-medically challenged” nations, from 1950 to 1955:**

1. Burkina Faso:	30.8%
2. Afghanistan:	27.5%
3. East Timor:	26.4%
4. Iran:	26.2%
5. Sierra Leone:	24.2%
6. Haiti:	24.2%
7. Maldives:	23.3%
8. Angola:	23.0%
9. Liberia:	22.4%
10. <u>Gambia:</u>	22.1%
<i>Average:</i>	25.0%

PRE-NATAL, INFANT and CHILD MORTALITY TOTALS

Miscarriages/stillbirth:	40% very conservatively
First-year-of-life death rate (1950-1955)	25% likely higher
Ages 1 to 5 death rate	15% likely higher
Average, AT LEAST →	80% !!

WHAT DOES GOD JUDGE MAN FOR?

Jeremiah 17:10

I, the Lord, search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man *according to his conduct*, according to *what his deeds deserve*.

Matthew 16:27

For the Son of Man will come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person *according to what he has done*.

Revelation 22:12

My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone *according to what he has done*.

2 Corinthians 5:10:

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him *for the things done while in the body*, whether good or bad.

Old Testament Commentary on Children as Guilty vs. Innocent

Deuteronomy 1:35,39 – Not a man of this evil generation shall see the good land I swore to give your forefathers [but] . . . your children who do not yet know good from bad—they will enter the land.

2 Samuel 12:23 – I will go to him, but he will not return to me.

Isaiah 7:16 – Before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right ...

Isaiah 57:1 – The righteous perish, and no one ponders it in his heart; devout men are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from *ra'* [a Hebrew word for “disaster”].

WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 18:3

Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:10

See that you do not look down on . . . these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.

Matthew 19:14, Mark 10:14 and Luke 18:16:

Let the little children come to me ... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

SOME MAY OBJECT . . .

What about our Lord's teaching in Matthew 7:14?

“. . . Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

Clearly Jesus was not referring to the preborn or to infants or children too young to seek and/or find anything as significant as he was describing.

WHAT THE EARLY CHURCH TAUGHT

IRENÆUS, a 2nd-century Church Father

Speaking of Herod's slaughter of infants in Bethlehem after Jesus was born, Irenaeus saw that tragedy as overruled by Christ, who:

”...suddenly removed those children belonging to the house of David,... that he might send them on before into his kingdom; he, since he was himself an infant, so arranging it that human infants should be martyrs, slain, according to the Scriptures, for the sake of Christ, who was born in Bethlehem of Judah, in the city of David.”

(Against Heresies III:16:4)

IRENÆUS ALSO SAID:

Who are they that have been saved and received the inheritance? Those, doubtless, who do believe God, and who have continued in his love...*and innocent children, who have had no sense of evil.*

(Against Heresies IV:28:3).

But then, alas, in the late 300s, Augustine of Hippo changed everything—grimly!

AN UNWARRANTED CHANGE

Contrary to prior Christian teaching, Augustine purported that the transmission of the Adamic nature from parent to child automatically conveyed guilt and immediate spiritual death even prior to a child's first sinful act.

Augustine thus designated every baby as subject to eternal damnation unless properly baptized before death.

PASSAGES IN THE EPISTLES

Romans 7:9-- Once I was *alive* apart from the law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and *I died*.

Romans 7:11 – For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.

PASSAGES IN THE EPISTLES

Romans 5:12 – Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men *because all sinned*.

1 Corinthians 15:22 – For as in Adam all *die*, so in Christ all will be made alive.

Romans 3:23 – All have *sinned* and fall short of the glory of God.

Ephesians 2:15 –As for you, you were dead *in your transgressions and sins*.

Ephesians 2:5 - Even when we were *dead in transgressions*.

QUESTIONS for DISCUSSION

- 1. How does a *moral* victory differ from a victory in terms of *quantity*? (For example, Suppose a king wins a just war only to find that almost everyone in his kingdom have been slain in the struggle.)**
- 2. What evidence—from scripture and medical statistics—did Don reference to affirm that a majority of all the people God has created in his image will actually spend eternity with Him because of the sacrifice of Christ on their behalf?**
- 3. How might you use this information beneficially as you talk with people within your sphere of influence, including your family?**