

Christian Victory: “Know”

“Know ye not, that so many of us were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?” (Rom. 6:3).

Investment advisors are suggesting that investors not invest only in the stocks that they know well, or in the products and companies with which they are very familiar. It may sound like common sense for professionals to lean on their expertise in a special field—for computer programmers to invest in software firms, doctors to invest in drug companies, or bankers in financial services—but what they know often hinders their returns.

The idea is that what you know can hinder you from benefiting from the diversity of the stock market. The best option is to invest in a broad variation of companies and industries and take the risk that only one or two of them will not be to your advantage. We have often heard, “What you don’t know won’t hurt you!” From the positive perspective, it might be said, “What you do know can hurt you!”

As we meditate on Romans 6, the first key word associated with Christian victory is the word “know.” What you know might hurt you when it comes to Wall Street, but if you know truth, especially the truth of your position in Christ, what you know can only help you on Victory Road. Those believers who are aware of their position in Christ learn they do not have to “get” the victory, for their victory is in Him.

The believer must know that he has been crucified with Christ! According to verse 3, we have already been “baptized into Jesus Christ” and “baptized into His death.” When Jesus was crucified, we were crucified with Him. When He died, we died with Him. “Our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin” (6:6). God looks upon His people as being dead to sin.

The believer must know that he has been buried with Christ! Not only have we been crucified with Him, but we have been “buried with Him by baptism into death” (6:4). By virtue of this spiritual baptism, we are identified with Christ and our past is now terminated. We have died to sin and the old life has been buried, or put away, with Him. All we were in Adam is ended by our position in Christ.

The believer must know that he has been raised with Christ! Christians have been crucified with Christ, buried with Christ, and raised with Him. “If we be dead with Christ,” Paul writes, “we believe that we shall also live with Him” (6:8). As death “hath no more dominion over Him,” that is, over the resurrected Lord, so sin has no more authority over those who have been raised up in Him. Knowing these truths will not hurt us; this is the path of maturity and victory.