**Victory Series Week 3**

Welcome to the Victory Series.

Last Week we looked at what the Cross has to do with victory in our lives.

We learnt that three things happened on the cross:

**1. Suffering.** Jesus suffered the pain of the cross because of my sins.

**2. Substitution.** Jesus took our place on the cross, becoming our sin and suffering our punishment, so we could receive his righteousness.

**3. Salvation.** Jesus came to seek and save the Lost – to save sinners from the wrath of God.

We also looked at how we should respond to what Jesus did on the Cross:

1. Repent of all sin.

2. Receive forgiveness for Sin.

3. Remember the price he paid for our sin.

This Week we will be looking at how our identity affects our victory. We will discover what God thinks about us.

Who am I? Any solider must know who they are!

What must a soldier take into battle?

Of course he needs his rifle but most importantly he must take his dog tags!

Here is the original set of dog tags that Pastor Mark received when he became a soldier! It shows his number, which indicated the year in which he was recruited (1978), his name, his blood type (A Positive) and his church (Baptist). If a soldier is killed in battle - one of the tags is placed in the body bag to make sure the body can be identified and the other is taken back to base by the officer in charge as a record of the fallen soldier.

Today we want to explore our identity in Jesus: Who am I in Christ? There are three pictures of who we are in Christ in the Bible – and each one has an implication connected to it. The three images are found in this verse: “You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood and a holy nation.” (1 Peter 2:9)

**1. We are Chosen.** Jesus said: “You did not choose me, but I chose you. I have appointed you to go, to produce fruit that will last.” (John 15:16). God chose us because he loved us not because of anything we had done. The implication: Because I am chosen I must bear fruit!

**2. We are Royal.** “You made them a kingdom and priests for our God. They will rule as kings on the earth.” (Revelation 5:10). We are a royal priesthood – like priests we have special access to God. The implication: Because I am Royal I must live close to God.

**3. We are Holy.** “But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15-16). Holiness is a heart issue. It is who we are before what we do. The Implication: Because I am holy I must live a holy life.

Who we are determines how we act!

\* Fish swim because they are fish.

\* Birds fly because they are birds.

\* We are chosen, royal and holy: so we should act like we are chosen, royal and holy!

Video: He is my identity. Watch it on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyHMmyUCrJY

Have you heard of the phrase ‘Baptism of Fire” – it refers to a situation where soldiers come under heavy attack from their enemy and bullets are flying around all over the place! Well there is another baptism that believers need to experience!

The New Testament spoke of a package deal – a whole set of actions that needed to happen when you became a follower of Jesus: (1) Repent, (2) Believe, (3) Be Baptised in Water and (4) Receive the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was baptised in water.

Here is what water baptism is all about:

\* Why should we be baptised? (1) To follow Jesus’ example, (2) To obey Jesus’ command and (3) To show you are a believer.

\* What is water baptism all about? (1) It illustrates Jesus’ burial and resurrection, (2) It illustrates my new life as a Christian, (3) It does not make you a Christian: it shows that you believe. (3) It does not save you: you are saved by faith in Jesus.

\* Who should be baptised? Everyone who believes in Jesus! “Those who believed and accepted his message were baptised.” (Acts 2:41)

\* When should we be baptised? As soon as you have believed! “Those who believed were baptised that day.” (Acts 2:41)

**Small Group Questions:**

(1) What does it mean to be Chosen, Royal and Holy?

(2) Have you been water baptised?

(3) Will you sign up to be water baptised in the coming weeks?

Let’s pray! If you have not been baptised in water - there will be an opportunity soon on a Sunday morning in the main sanctuary. I you would like to be baptised then please stand so that I can pray for you - and then you can put your name on the list and we will send you details.

Next Week we will look at the first of five big issues in our lives: Generational Curses.