

## **End of the Game**

*But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
1Corinthians 15:57*

The 2008 Super Bowl was played between the New England Patriots and the New York Giants. With an undefeated record, the Patriots entered the game as heavy favorites against the Giants with six losses. New England was on the brink of becoming the first team in over 35 years to accomplish a perfect season. The Giants were able to pull off an upset with a win and take home the trophy. At the completion of the big game New England still had the better record, but the Giants were the champions. The game serves as a reminder that it is most important to win in the end.

Today's verse and many other passages throughout the scriptures emphasize inestimable value of gaining victory in the end. The rhetorical question of what does a man profit in gaining the whole world while losing his own soul in the end demands an answer. The whole fifteenth chapter of 1Corinthians accentuates the resurrection victory that awaits the believer at the end of life. Our victory was only made possible because the Lord Jesus Christ secured the victory (conquered) over death and the grave, and because He lives, we can also live. For the unsaved, any victory on any level in any realm will be short lived. The Book of Job states that *the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment*. The listing of stalwarts of the faith found in Hebrews 11, cites the extreme trials they endured and clearly proclaims they were enabled because they were waiting for a better resurrection.

In many ways, life in this world is filled with battles and struggles between two extremes. The spirit against the flesh, light versus darkness, good versus evil, and heaven against hell. History records there have been successes in the spiritual realm, such as the Protestant Reformation, but the overall trend is civilization drifting away from God and the resultant evil decline. As time moves on, the scriptures tell us that evil men shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. When the spiritual and moral forecast appears grim, we can take our encouragement in knowing that because of the resurrection of Christ Jesus, we are assured of victory in the end. Death and the grave may seem to win a temporary battle, but the ultimate victory is ours through our Lord Jesus Christ. May we fight the good fight in the power of His resurrection.

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