

“The Victory of the Resurrection ” By Pastor Francis Williams

The resurrection of Jesus is the greatest feat ever accomplished in the history of the world. It is the victory of life over death. In his second sermon after Jesus rose from the dead, the apostle Peter accused the religious leaders of rejecting Jesus, but reminded them that God vindicated him: “The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. But you denied the Holy One and the Just and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses” (Acts 3:13-15). It was impossible that death should reign over Jesus because He is the embodiment of life. As the Gospel writer claims, “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4). Jesus Himself asserts that He is life. He made this claim just before he raised his dead friend Lazarus from the grave. This is what Jesus said to Martha at Lazarus’ graveside, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26).

The resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate victory of life over death. This truth is not debatable. The apostle Paul could hardly contain himself as he contemplates this glorious truth: “Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:54-55).

In a world whose history is dominated by death and destruction, we are reminded in the resurrection of Jesus that death does not have the final word. The final word is found in Jesus, the One who is the source of life. That life which has finally conquered the power of death.