

Victory at the Finish Line

Theme Text: [1 Corinthians 15:57](#)

Open: 127, verse 1-3
Close: 127, verse 4, 5

"but thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I. Introduction

No matter how old a consecrated brother or sister may be, we are all moving forward toward the end of our life on this side of the veil. The clock is running and the days, hours, minutes and seconds we have left are fewer all the time.

So, **how are you using the time left?** You might think, "Well, I only my thirties, or forties or fifties, so I have a lot of time left." If you think this, then you are missing a powerful point that Jesus taught, namely, our lives could end at any time. Remember his parable about the successful farmer who planned to make bigger barns for his harvest and then take the time to enjoy life? Jesus said in [Luke 12:20](#):

"But God said unto him, **Thou foolish one, this night is thy soul required of thee;** and the things which thou hast prepared, whose shall they be?"

Whether we are younger or older, we do not know the amount of time that Jehovah has allotted us to make our calling and election sure. So whatever length of time that might be, **how do you plan to use it?**

Since we have consecrated our entire lives to serving our God, our lives belong to Him. We are obligated by our covenant with Jehovah through Christ, to put Him first in our lives. **How are you doing with that?**

We want to be victorious through Christ. The natural question is: How do we do it? To answer that question, here is a secondary theme text that we will be drawing a lot of lessons from:

Philippians 3:13-14 - "Brethren, I count not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

In this text Paul tells us that there was ONE thing he does: Forgetting the things behind and reaching forward to the things ahead. It sounds like two things, but it is one continuous thing that consists of a mindset and an action.

What else must we do to reach our victorious goal?

Matthew 16:24, 25 - "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man would come after me, **let him deny himself**, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever would save his life shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it."

Self-denial should be one of the basic fundamental practices of our life. This, of course, applies to things that are lawful for us. It goes without saying that we avoid sinful things. But things that are lawful for us requires us to think a bit.

1 Corinthians 6:12 - "All things are lawful for me; but not all things are expedient. All things are lawful for me; but I will not be brought under the power of any."

Now Paul here is speaking about things under the Mosaic Law that are not related to God's moral law. It was lawful for him to work on the sabbath. It was lawful for him to eat pork. It was lawful for him to have friendship with the Gentiles. But he wisely observes that

disobeying some of these Jewish laws was not always expedient or the best choice. In other words, putting the law of love as the basis for every thought, word and action provided the wisdom to determine what he would do or not do.

As applied to us, all things are lawful. There are innumerable things that are lawful for us in this world. Go to a movie, read a book, attend a birthday party, buy a nice car, drink a glass of wine, go on a cruise, take a vacation, contribute to a charity, etc. But we remember Jesus' counsel to deny ourselves. We can, to the pleasing of Lord I might add, deny ourselves, choosing not to avail ourselves of some or all of these lawful activities as a sacrifice.

Definition: SACRIFICE - give up something good for something better.

Self-denial is a powerful developer of the new creature will. Since it is a sort of free-will offering, it is a sweet-savor to our heavenly Father.

Here is another aspect of self-sacrifice:

Philippians 3:7, 8 - "Howbeit what things were gain to me, these have I counted loss for Christ. Yea verily, and **I count all things to be loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but refuse, that I may gain Christ,**"

Paul is doing a value assessment here. He had things in his life that used to be of value. Position, Power, Influence, Respect of Peers. He had all of these things. But he sacrificed all of them because the knowledge of Christ Jesus was the most valuable of all. So he celebrated his losses.

What have you lost for Christ?

Moses had the Kingdom of Egypt and all of its trappings, but gave it up for the worship of Jehovah.

Hebrews 11:24-27 - "By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to share ill treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; accounting the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt: for he looked unto the recompense of reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible."

Jesus was offered all the kingdoms of the world, but declined in order to remain loyal and faithful to his heavenly Father.

What has the truth cost you today? Yesterday? How about the day before?

II. Body

Let's return to our secondary theme text and drill down a bit more:
Philippians 3:13-14

**"Brethren, I count not myself yet to have laid hold:
but one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind,
and stretching forward to the things which are before,
I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God
in Christ Jesus."**

A. Forgetting the things behind

For the Apostle Paul, forgetting the things behind meant forgetting his violent opposition to the Gospel - even approving the murder of brethren.

- **How would you have coped with that?**

I can't help but think that Paul had a difficult emotional time thinking about what he did as Saul the Persecutor. And I wonder if God permitted a certain experience to help him forget the things behind.

Acts 14:19, 20 - "But there came Jews thither from Antioch and Iconium: and having persuaded the multitudes, **they stoned Paul**, and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and entered into the city: and on the morrow he went forth with Barnabas to Derbe."

Paul was permitted to experience stoning. It only happened once (**2 Corinthians 11:25**). But he now knew and felt what he did to Stephen. Perhaps the experience allowed him to purge whatever emotional guilt he may have had left.

Certainly, Paul recognized intellectually that his sin had been forgiven. It was gone, no more to be remembered by God. So now, expedited and expiated, Paul could let it go as well, totally forgotten.

- **Brethren, do you have sins in your past are keeping you from the joy of your present relationship with God?**
- **Or what opportunities that you may have missed in the past are still bothering you, perhaps coloring your thinking with a little guilt?**

To be sure, our consecrated lives can be filled with frustrations at times! The characters of Charles Schultz's famous "Peanuts" cartoon frequently showed us that side of life. In one we find Lucy is philosophizing and Charlie is listening. As usual Lucy has the floor, delivering one of her dogmatic lectures.

"Charlie Brown," she begins, "life is a lot like a deck chair. Some place it so they can see where they're going. Others place it to

see where they've been. And some so they can see where they are at present. Charlie sighs, "*I can't even get mine unfolded!*"

More than a few of us identify with Charlie. Life's trials sometimes leave us unsettled and unsure. We wonder, What is God teaching us? We know the experience is providential, but often we can't find the lesson. And then we feel bad about having made a wrong decision or through inaction missed an opportunity entirely.

Brethren, all of us will have failures in our life. We don't like that fact, but it remains a fact. It was a fact with Paul! *But we must move past those things and forget them in the sense of not letting them distract us from the goal.*

We can sit and stew on our failures, or we can get up and continue on. If you are traveling on a trip and you make a wrong turn and go miles out of your way, but what do you do when you find out your mistake? Do you stop and fret and turn around and go home? No, of course not. You go back to the point of error and then continue in the right direction!

The same must be true of our consecrated life. You correct mistakes and go on.

A key here is go on! I remember a talk Brother Gene Burns gave in which he quoted most dramatically the words of Winston Churchill during the dark days of WWII in England. He said it this way:

"Never Give Up! Never Give Up! NEVER GIVE UP!"

So, in dealing with failure, it is not a time to give up, rather, we should see them as stepping-stones to a more intimate relationship with our God and new opportunities for serving Him.

That brings us to the second part, a positive action part:

B. Reaching and pressing unto those things which are before

The Apostle Paul was laser focused on a victory at the finish line of the race. He did not dwell on the trials and sufferings of the way, but focused more resolutely with each new day opportunities of service.

It is a race to the finish line of death. Paul used the illustration of a race in [1 Corinthians 9:24-27](#):

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

[See R5001 for an excellent reference on the subject.]

So again, let's bring the lesson to ourselves:

- Are your eyes fixed on the goal?
- Will you refuse to let a single day go by without some service to others and some sacrifice for the truth?
- **If the truth doesn't cost you something every day, then, perhaps you need to make a change!**

Now these are high ideals. But the reality is that we have many obstacles which slow us down. So, the challenge is to rise above these

Paul wrote some similar thoughts in [Hebrews 12:1,2](#):

"Therefore let us also, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **lay aside every weight**, and **the sin which doth so easily beset us**, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and

perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and hath sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

This expression "**lay aside every weight**" is full of practical meaning for us. It bids us to review the activities of our life and make a value assessment. We mentioned value assessments earlier in our lesson. It really boils down to a simple question:

Does your daily activity involve eternal things or temporary things?

Again, we have the Apostle's help in making these distinctions:

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 - "Now if any man **build** upon this foundation **gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble**; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

Another way of expressing the question is to ask **What are you building with day by day?** Remember, with the passing of each day, you have less time to build! **So what building activities are filling your time day by day?**

Now, to be sure, we all have necessary activities in our lives that are not directly related to spiritual work.

- Providing for our earthly needs of food, clothing and shelter,
- personal hygiene,
- care and maintenance of our earthly possessions, etc.

But **after** taking care of these things, **how do we use our time?** This is about how we use our discretionary time. Make no mistake about it,

most of our discretionary time should be devoted to spiritual things, eternal things. This is our "Father's business." Each one of us needs to manage this on their own. Unless we perceive a serious problem, we are to mind our own business. But remember, we are to render up a report to the Master at the end of our lives. Better to render that report at the end of every day!!

Managing our time requires value assessment. Let's go back a second time to **Philippians 3:7-8** for Paul's lesson in value assessment.

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and **I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord:** for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,"

Notice Paul start his thoughts off with "but". His drive to serve God was still intact and just as zealous as it had been. **BUT** now he had a true perspective, a divine perspective. And nothing, absolutely nothing that he had or had been before compared with the exceeding excellency of his current condition. And he understood that his sufferings were a vital part of that blessing since they would lead to an indescribable reward.

But the issue is not about our accomplishments or achievements or the possessions we have in our earthly human life. **The issue is about our attitudes towards these things.** If they occupy too large a part of our attention, then we may not have developed the divine perspective, as we should have. If we are to attain the victory, that resurrection for which Paul strived, then we too must view all achievements of the flesh as loss for Christ. That conversion of mind is absolutely necessary to please God. Here is a poem of Dawn about such realization:

I had walked life's path with an easy tread,
Had followed where comfort and pleasure led;

And then by chance in a quiet place -
I met my Master face to face

With station and rank and wealth for goal,
Much thought for body but none for the soul,
I had entered to win this life's mad race -
When I met my Master face to face

I had built my castles, reared them high,
Till their towers had pierced the blue of the sky;
I had sworn to rule with an iron mace -
When I met my Master face for face.

I met Him and knew Him, and blushed to see
That His eyes full of sorrow were fixed on me;
And I faltered, and fell at His feet that day
While my castles vanished and melted away.

Melted and vanished; and in their place
I saw naught else but my Master's face;
And I cried aloud: "Oh, make me meet
To follow the marks of Thy wounded feet."

My thoughts are now for God's saving of men
I have lost my life to find it again
Ever since alone in that Holy place
My Master and I stood face to face.

C. Some more lessons from our secondary theme text

"Brothers, I do not regard myself to have yet laid hold of it;"

- To get it, we must be faithful unto death!
- Like Jesus, our final victory requires our death.

There is a cynical epitaph for many Americans who drift aimlessly through life. It reads,

"Died, aged thirty, buried, age sixty."

But curiously, this has an application to the lives of the consecrated. We symbolically die at our consecration, don't we? And we are buried in Christ now. But we don't reach the finish line until many years later. It is those many years that concern us here, the time left until victory.

Now we have considered a lot of sobering principles so far. Let's take a quick look at some encouraging things about our consecrated live.

Point #1: God called you! - You are not in the race solely because you decided to be. No!

- God invited you.
- He brought you to Jesus.
- He gave you repeated measures of grace to bring the truth to you.
- He made clear the invitation to the high calling.
- He begat you of the holy spirit.
- He has brought you into countless experiences, all designed for your growth and fitting in the kingdom.
- ***Do you see a pattern here?*** Yes, indeed.

It is God working in you!!

Philippians 2:12, 13 - "...but now work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. **For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**"

We often quote the first part of this verse "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." But it is the second part which is wonderful. God is working in you!

Here is another way that Paul expressed it. [Ephesians 2:10](#):

"For we are **his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God afore prepared that we should walk in them."

Unless you believe God made a mistake with you, and I am sure none of you believe that, then you may have complete confidence that our Heavenly Father, who is righteous and just and faithful, is more than able to bring us to that high reward. We must only submit, fully and completely, to His will. Put your confidence in Him!

Remember our theme is about not just victory, but making to the finish line for victory. Recognizing our time left is limited means we must use this consecrated time left wisely.

We already saw the focus and single-mindedness of Paul when he wrote "this ONE thing I do." It was clear what his priorities were.

What are your priorities?

God's Word does not leave us without an answer. Jesus teaches us in [Matthew 6:33](#):

"But **seek ye first** the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;"

Is this a suggestion from Jesus? No! It is an imperative for the saints!

- **Are we living in accord with this priority?**
- **Are we obeying Jesus?**
- To seek the kingdom, we must seek the King.
- **Are you focused on Jesus?**
- We as Bible Students preach the presence of our King.
- **Do you live consistently with this message?**
- **Does your life have our present Lord Jesus in focus?**

We have a beautiful illustration of both the blessing of focusing on Jesus and the consequences of taking our eyes off him. Do you remember the account in Matthew 14 where Jesus was found walking on the water? Turn to [Matthew 14:26-31](#):

“And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?”

Notice that as long as Peter kept his eyes on the Lord, he walked on the water! It was only when his attention was arrested and his focus moved away from Jesus did he begin to sink. But please also notice who was there to help! Jesus is ever faithful to his called one, his bride. If and when you getting that sinking feeling, call to Jesus! He will come! Believe it and be strong!

Brethren if we take our eyes off of our returned Lord, we risk sinking into the troubled waters of politics, social unrest, and civil upheaval. This is especially important at this point in time. Do not allow the politics of our country to intrude on your fellowship with each other. We may like or not like what is happening. But differences of opinion on these matters are causing great division in the world. Do not let these things divide us. Focus on the Lord, the truth and the brethren. All of these other worldly issues are going away.

Point #2: Paul wrote we must PRESS and REACH toward the goal.

- The NIV and a few other translations read "straining" toward what is ahead.
- Let me put this another way: **We must STRETCH ourselves!**

What are your comfort zones? I mean those areas in our lives where we are physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually comfortable.

Do we make decisions in our lives to preserve that comfort?

Brethren, we must be careful not to get too comfortable. It is leaving our comfort zones in the service of Christ that will not only bring the greatest blessings, but ultimately may decide whether we are victorious or not.

Stretching ourselves means pushing past and out of our comfort zones. Look at your consecrated life.

Are there other opportunities to serve the interests of our Lord Jesus by stretching?

Is there something new in God's service you haven't tried before? Perhaps it is volunteering for a job in the ecclesia that we might not have thought you could do. Try it out! The results may surprise you.

Sometimes we get so bogged down with doing things a certain way, perhaps "by the book," that we fail to see opportunities that would be obvious to others. **Watch out for STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES!** They can suppress "stretching" and innovation in our lives.

An example of how ridiculous mindlessly following procedures can be is illustrated by an experience had by a humorist name Robert Henry. He went into a large department store in search of a pair of binoculars.

As he walked up to the appropriate counter, he noticed that he was the only customer in the store. Behind the counter were two salespersons. One was so preoccupied talking to “Mama” on the telephone that she refused to acknowledge that Robert was there. At the other end of the counter, a second salesperson was unloading inventory from a box onto the shelves.

Growing impatient, Robert walked down to her end of the counter and just stood there. Finally, she looked up at Robert and said, “You got a number?” “I got a what?” asked Robert, trying to control his astonishment at such an absurdity.

“You got a number? You gotta have a number.”

Robert replied, “Lady I’m the only customer in the store! I don’t need a number. Can’t you see how ridiculous this is?”

But she failed to see the absurdity and insisted that Robert take a number before agreeing to wait on him. By now, it was obvious to Robert that she was more interested in following procedures than helping the customer. So, he went to the take-a-number machine, pulled number 37 and walked back to the salesperson. With that, she promptly went to her number counter, which revealed that the last customer waited on had been holding number 34. So she screamed out, “35!.....35!.....36!.....37!”

“I’m number 37,” said Robert.

“May I help you?” she asked, without cracking a smile.

“No,” replied Robert, and he turned around and walked out.

Now we laugh at such ludicrous behavior. But could we be so wrapped up in the normal pursuits of life as to miss clear opportunities to serve others? On a more personal note, in our interests to serve other brethren, are we missing opportunities to serve our own families, our own spouses?

Brethren, we must stretch ourselves. And in the stretching will we find that **our reach**, in the sense of what we can do, will grow wonderfully. Paul had this attitude!

Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Brethren, You too! Can do all things through Christ!

But please note that we must stretch *in the direction of that goal*. It is part of the focus we spoke of earlier. **Take stock of your spiritual resources**. **Can any of them be used more in the service of God, in the service of the brethren?** It is a sad truth in life that often resources that lay silently in inventories could be used.

In doing some cleaning some time back, I came across a box of tracts and booklets stored away. It struck me that they do no good to anyone being stored away in my closet! These were valuable items of truth that needed to be gotten out! Now these were pieces of literature. But the principle applies just as strongly to talents we might have. **Are you sitting on them or putting them to use in the Father's business?**

Remember that we are God's workmanship, we can cooperate with God and **Ask the Father in prayer to be stretched!**

Psalms 143:6 - "I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul *thirsteth* after thee, as a thirsty land. Selah."

This is a prayer that God will definitely answer with a "YES!"

We have been emphasizing the privileges we have of spiritual activity in the time left in our lives. But this spiritual activity must also include study and meditation of God's Word.

By faith we believe we can, by God's grace, obtain this goal. We walk and see by faith. And faith is built upon the precious promises of God contained in his word. We can apprehend those promises only by study and godly meditation.

2 Timothy 2:15 - "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

We recognize the necessity of spending time in God's Word. In the expressions of scripture there is inspiration for us. In the time left in your lives, you must allocate time for study and meditation. It is a source of strength for you that cannot be neglected. It is the way that Jehovah speaks to you most directly.

In the Holy of the Tabernacle you had on the left the Golden Lampstand and the on the right the Table of Showbread. These had multiple meanings, but one of them is that they represent God's Word. **Why would we have two symbols of the same thing?** The reason they represent two different functions of God's Word to us.

1. The Golden Lampstand represents the Light of Truth we receive that gives us direction in our life, assisting us to make the right choices and decisions.
2. The Table of Showbread represent the spiritual food we receive that gives us the strength to go in in the narrow way day by day.

So, spending time every day in God's Word is necessary for our spiritual health and growth in knowledge of our God. There is only so much time left in our lives to enjoy this wonderful resource.

Point #3: One more observation from our theme text. Paul notes that **the prize is heavenward, away from the things of this earth**. When we consecrated our all to the service of God and sacrificed all on the altar to be consumed, the upward call to heaven takes on a special meaning. We must let go of the things of this world!

Brother Frey used to use the example of **the metamorphosis of a butterfly** as a natural illustration of a consecrated life.

- a caterpillar is a picture of our earthly flesh before consecration. As a caterpillar has many legs, so we had many connections with this world.
- at some point in the life of a caterpillar it gets an upward impulse.
- It finds a stick or tree and climbs up.
- Eventually it perches on a branch and attaches itself there.
- Then it lets go of the branch, one leg at a time until it hangs by one connection
- Then it weaves a cocoon, completely shutting itself off from the world and changes - transforms into a butterfly
- Now it is no longer a creature of the ground, the earth, but a beautiful, glorious creature of the air, the heavens.

A key element here is the letting go of the things of this world!!

Attention to self is a downward direction of attention. As we learn to direct our attention upward, heavenward, we begin to see things from a godly perspective, which is a high perspective.

- You tell me, can you see more from your lawn or up in a tree on your lawn?
- Can you see more from that tree, or a water tower in town?
- Can you see more from that water tower, or a nearby hill?

I'm sure you get the point.

The closer we can draw to God, the better our perspective of spiritual realities will be. The high calling is not simply an abstract future reward. It is a present reality.

Colossian 3:1,2 - "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

Ephesians 2:6 - "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:"

In the antitypical HOLY, we can see things no one else on earth can see!

Do you live day by day as "risen with Christ?"

In such a condition, we would expect the joy of each one to be irrepressible. We become willing to endure, to bear, to carry any experience that Lord gives us with joy in our hearts. In such a state of mind, the flesh becomes less and less important. And the goal of pressing for the mark - perfect love in Christlikeness - takes on more and more importance to us.

III. Conclusion

Dear Brethren, the finish line is coming up to us quickly. Many of you don't have far to go. But it is essential to stay faithful, to stay strong and to stay single-minded.

Israel wandered for 40 years in the Wilderness. They all knew it would be forty years because they heard Jehovah's judgment. Can you imagine the excitement as the fortieth-year, their last year of wandering, winded down? Sadly, many died in that last year because of sin and unfaithfulness. So close to the finish line, but failed to cross into the Promised Land. This is a powerful warning to us!

1 Corinthians 10:11, 12 - "Now these things happened unto them by way of example; and **they were written for our admonition, upon**

whom the ends of the ages are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

Summary of Lessons:

1. Our time on this earth is running out.
2. We must live our consecrated lives recognizing this fact
3. Value every hour in our lives as an opportunity for service.
4. Do not let mistakes of the past distract you.
5. Stretch yourself in various ways to expand your service opportunities.
6. Let go of the things of this earth.
7. Keep you focus on upward things, the goal of the prize.
8. Ask our heavenly Father for help to carry these ideals out.

1 John 5:4 - "For whatsoever is begotten of God overcometh the world: and **this is the victory that hath overcome the world, even our faith.**"

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Stay strong, Stay faithful, Stay active in the Lord! Let's share the victory together so that together we can sing that special song beyond the veil:

Revelation 15:2-4 - "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire; and **them that come off victorious** from the beast, and from his image, and from the number of his name, standing by the sea of glass, having harps of God. And **they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb**, saying,
Great and marvellous are thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty; righteous and true are thy ways,
thou King of the ages.
Who shall not fear, O Lord, and glorify thy name?
for thou only art holy;
for all the nations shall come and worship before thee;
for thy righteous acts have been made manifest."