

Read: Hebrews 9:24-28

We Won!

Hebrews 9:26-28

But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Marcus and Myah couldn't believe it! The moment almost didn't seem real. Their eyes were wide open, they were pumping their fists in the air, they were jumping up and down, and they were cheering as loudly as they could. What a special moment! There, right in front of them, was their favorite team and their favorite superstar player riding by in a championship parade!

Marcus and Myah had watched every second of the championship game. When the team came to town for the game, they were a little nervous. But they had confidence in their favorite player. Sure enough, it was a tough battle, but the superstar player helped the team win the championship! Awesome! Now a few days later, the team returned to the city for the championship parade, and the superstar player was holding the championship trophy! What a victory! What a day! What a celebration!

Are you ready for your celebration? Many people enjoy when their favorite team or player wins a championship. But nothing will compare to the celebration waiting for us Christians when Jesus returns on judgment day.

The Bible writer reminds us in these verses from Hebrews 9 that Jesus came once already to fight the battle. It was a tough fight! After all, Jesus was up against sin, death, and the devil. But Jesus is not a superstar player, he is our almighty Savior. His opponents didn't have a chance! Jesus washed away all sin at the cross, he defeated death when he rose from the dead, and he crushed Satan when he declared in victory, "It is finished!" The best news of all is that he won this glorious victory for you and for me!

All that's left for Jesus now is the championship celebration. The Bible writer says, "He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him." Jesus is not coming back to battle sin and Satan again. He already won that fight. Instead, when Jesus returns, he will be bringing the championship to us. He will bring us eternal salvation, which means we will go on to live in victory forever in heaven.

Oh what a victory he has won already! Oh what a day that will be when he finally returns! And oh how I can't wait to celebrate with you! We won! We won! The victory is ours in Jesus—now and forever! Amen!

The questions below are to help families discuss this devotion. The questions are divided by age group as suggestions, but anyone could reflect on any of the questions as they desire.

Questions for the Younger Children

- How did Jesus defeat the devil?
- How did Jesus prove that he won the victory over death?

Questions for Elementary Age Children

- Why is it that we often don't think about Jesus coming back on judgment day?
- Give one way we can help believers to be ready for Jesus' return. Then give one way we can help unbelievers to be ready for Jesus' return.

Questions for Middle School and Above

- If you woke up every day and thought that it might be the Last Day when Jesus returns, how would you live your life differently?
- Some have said that Christians should be living with *urgency* in these last days before Jesus comes back. Describe what that means for the way we live.

Closing Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for winning the victory for us with your life, death, and resurrection in our place. Help us to watch and wait with joy for your glorious and victorious return on the Last Day. Amen.