

1 Corinthians 15:57

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Analysis

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (τῷ δὲ θεῷ χάρις τῷ διδόντι ἡμῖν τὸ νῖκος διὰ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ)—The word *charis* (χάρις, "grace, thanks") is doxological exclamation. The present participle *didonti* (διδόντι, "giving") indicates God's ongoing gift of victory—not merely past or future but present reality. The noun *nikos* (νῖκος, "victory") is definite—the victory, the triumph over sin, death, and Satan.

The preposition *dia* (διά, "through") with genitive indicates agency—victory comes through our Lord Jesus Christ. Not through human effort, wisdom, or strength, but through Christ's death and resurrection. This is grace from beginning to end—God initiates, accomplishes, and applies victory. Believers receive it as gift, not achievement. The full Trinitarian title *tou kyriou hēmōn Iēsou Christou* (τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, "our Lord Jesus Christ") emphasizes His deity, messiahship, and personal relationship with believers.

Historical Context

This doxology concludes Paul's resurrection argument with worship. Theological argumentation climaxes in praise—fitting response to resurrection truth is not merely intellectual assent but grateful worship. Early Christian worship was Trinitarian: the Father gives victory through the Son's work, applied by the Spirit (implied in chapter 12).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why does Paul climax his resurrection argument with doxology rather than further argumentation?
2. How is resurrection victory a present possession ('gives') rather than merely future hope?
3. What does it mean that victory comes 'through' Christ—what did He accomplish to secure this victory?

Interlinear Text

τοῦ	δὲ	θεῷ	χάρις	τοῦ	διδόντι	ἡμῖν	τοῦ	νῖκος
which	But	be to God	thanks	which	giveth	us	which	the victory
G3588	G1161	G2316	G5485	G3588	G1325	G2254	G3588	G3534

διὰ	τοῦ	κυρίου	ἡμῶν	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ
through	which	Lord	our	Jesus	Christ
G1223	G3588	G2962	G2257	G2424	G5547

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 2:14 (References Christ): Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

Romans 8:37 (Parallel theme): Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Proverbs 21:31 (References Lord): The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.

Revelation 12:11 (Parallel theme): And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

John 16:33 (Parallel theme): These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Psalms 98:1 (References Lord): O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

2 Corinthians 9:15 (References God): Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

Ephesians 5:20 (References Jesus): Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Romans 7:25 (References Jesus): I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

1 Chronicles 22:11 (References God): Now, my son, the LORD be with thee; and prosper thou, and build the house of the LORD thy God, as he hath said of thee.