

In Northern Ireland there are big celebrations around the 12th of July. Many people go to see the famous 'orange' parades in almost every town in the country. Many marching bands take part and it is probably the biggest marching occasion in the calendar. Many banners are seen upon which a picture of King William III (often known as 'King Billy') is seen on a white horse. The parades are to celebrate the victory that he won near the Boyne river on the 1st July (now 12th) 1690. William III and James II met in battle to contend for the British throne and James II was defeated.

King William's victory is remembered in parades and history, but he has died and can never be seen alive

again. I want to remind you of another victory won that has greater consequences than any victory William could win. There were no troops and cannon, but its impact was so great that it even affects us today! The victory I'm thinking of is the victory over death by Jesus Christ. This victory has the power to save you from your sins and prevents you from ever facing the judgement that is the just deserts of sinners like you and me. Jesus won the greatest victory by dying on Calvary's cross and being resurrected from the dead.

Few consider this victory. No-one parades in memory of it and many people try to ridicule it, but nevertheless the victory has been won for you! The difference between King William and Jesus Christ is this: William III is dead; Jesus Christ is living, having died and risen again.

Jesus Christ's victory can change the lives of every individual person in the world. William's victory changed the lives of very few people. William III could not know all his subjects, but Jesus Christ can and wants you to know Him personally. He wants to save you from sin through his victory on the cross. The Bible says *"as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered **once** to bear the sins of many."* (Hebrews 9v27-28).

Jesus was the perfect Son of God, the only person of all mankind that should have lived eternally. He *"did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth"* (1 Peter 2v22). Whereas, the Bible says that we *"all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3v23) *"For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6v23) No king of men could save even one of their

subjects from God's judgement, but Jesus died that through the shedding of His blood, all of us could be saved. He was innocent but such was the love of Christ towards us that he was prepared to offer **Himself** to save us from God's judgement on sinners. He said *"As the Father has loved me, I also have loved you: abide in my love."* (John 15v9). *"God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love wherewith he loved us"* (Ephesians 2v4).

Therefore because of God's love we can be *"justified freely by his grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus."* (Romans 3v24). We can't do anything to make ourselves fit for God but Jesus' sacrifice means that we can be saved completely no matter how bad our sins are. God wants you now to accept Jesus as the substitute for your sins so that he can save you from his sentence on sinners. He will take away every

sin! God says to you, *"Come now, let us reason together", says the Lord: "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool".* (Isaiah 1v18). *"Because I will be merciful to their unrighteousnesses, and their sins and their lawlessnesses I will never remember any more."* (Hebrews 8v12). Oh, the wonderful love, grace and mercy of God that he wants to save a sinner like you or me. He has done all that was needed. Put your trust in Jesus today. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved".* (Acts 16v31)
"And salvation is in none other, for neither is there another name under heaven which is given among men by which we must be saved". (Acts 4v12)

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Another victory....