**Triumphalism**

1. Definition: Triumphalism – The attitude or belief that a particular doctrine, culture or social system, particularly a religious or political one, is superior and that it will or should triumph over all others.
2. Christian Triumphalism: The Good, The Bad, and the Debatable
3. The Debatable

Eschatological Triumphalism – This present age will be marked by the growth of Christ’s kingdom and the eventual triumph of the gospel. The overwhelming majority of men and nations will become disciples of Christ and righteousness and peace will flourish on the Earth.

* Biblical Basis

Ps. 2, Ps. 22:27-28, Ps. 69:34-36, Ps. 72, Is. 9:6-7, Dan. 2:44, Dan. 7:13-14, Matt. 13:31-33, Cor. 15:20-28

* Great debate rages around this type of triumphalism. Its critics assert that it’s adherents fail to rightly interpret other passages of scripture that help to illuminate the nature and/or timing of the triumph of Christs Kingdom.

1. The Bad

Personalistic Triumphalism (The Prosperity Gospel) - God’s plan is for faithful believers to experience health, wealth, and earthly success in this present age.

Biblical Basis

Pr. 12:21 No grave trouble will overtake the righteous, But the wicked shall be filled with evil.

Jer. 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

John 10:10 …I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Is. 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Mal. 4:2 But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.

* Critics of this type of triumphalism rightly assert that its adherents ignore the Bible’s clear teaching regarding: Remaining sin, suffering, sickness, and persecution in the good purposes of God.

1. The Good

Personalistic Triumphalism (The Reformed Doctrine of Sanctification) -All of the redeemed are perfectly secure in the love of Christ. Their victory over the world, the flesh and the devil is assured. In spite of remaining sin, suffering, sickness and persecution, they will experience victory in this life under the watchful eye of their heavenly Father.

Biblical Basis

Rom. 8

v1. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

v2. …free from the law of sin and death.

v11. …he who raised up Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies…

v16. The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the Children of God.

v17. …heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ…

v18. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

v26. …the Spirit Himself makes intersession for us…

v28. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

v29. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

v30. …Predestined…called…justified…glorified.

v31. If God is for us, who can be against us…

v32. He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

v33. Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns?

v34. …Christ…who also makes intermission for us.

v35. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

v37. …In all things we are more than conquerors…

v38. …(nothing) shall separate us from the love of God in Christ…

1. Why do so many Christians fail to live triumphalistically in the good sense?