

Coming to the end of 1 Corinthians with just four messages left – End Resurrection Section

- One of the things we must address is a Triumphant Secured Hope in our Resurrection
Here is a question for you...are you tired from the war? Battle torn...blood on the uniform
And what pushes us on? The reality that one day there will be rest and rest in triumph
Part of Christian experience is pushing on because you know what awaits you at the end
Big Idea - Jesus' return will complete God's triumph and death's demise

- Do you see how brilliant that is? How incredible it is on God's part? This world is war
But we have a Triumphant Secured Hope in the resurrection...the second coming...of Christ
If you have felt unnerved by the world...your current situation...listen to these four things

1. Our hope is secured by a: Heavenly inheritance (v50)

- ⁵⁰I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Context of the resurrection...we have a heavenly destination not experience on earth

- What do we see about this realm: **Inherited – Kingdom of God – Imperishable**
 - *Inherited* – Someone has to die...this case Christ died and has established something
 - When Christ died...He left you something...a Kingdom – Will Reading
 - *Kingdom of God* – Realm of absolute holiness, immortality, and glory – Christ reigns
 - *Imperishable* – Are you perishable or imperishable? Cannot inherit while perishing
 - This is where the gospel comes in – When you receive Christ...transferred

Ever been to black tie event – You cannot go in looking like that...Christ has cleaned you up

We are living for the eternal in the temporal...you may be dirty now...new clothes await

Because we're fueled by hope, don't waste your time on what won't last

- You can bring the eternal to the temporal by deciding what is most important to you
 - Church – The church is the epicenter of God's outpouring of grace – Bride of Christ
 - Discipleship – Personal growth and growing of others in the disciplines of the Word
 - Evangelism – The winning and influencing people into the Kingdom of Christ

Reduced a sauce in cooking? When we reduce down what matters...left with the good stuff

World wants your identity...do...accomplish | Identity = child of God...heavenly inheritance

2. Our hope is secured by a: Heavenly transformation (v51-53)

- ⁵¹Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

Paul is putting a concluding thought on the Heavenly Body that we talked about last week

- Look at the beauty: It is going to be radical and immediate at the trumpet sound
 - *Radical* – We will not all sleep, but shall all be changed – Think about all you've lost
 - When my wife's mother passed...cancer had destroyed her everything – Done
 - *Immediate* – In the twinkling of an eye – I don't know how long is...not progressive
When the trumpet sounds our bodies will get a heavenly makeover = Eternal

Point of perfection...I'm going to break your hearts...you cannot achieve perfection here

This world we still have sin...this world things still break down...this world we have a mess

Because we're fueled by hope, we're not fighting for perfection

I evaluate sermons...and I want you to know what really makes me mad = Do more better

The gospel is never do more better...the gospel is always trust God more

There is no greater way to express your trust to God than with the future

3. Our hope is secured by a: Heavenly victory (v54-57)

- ⁵⁴When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

Paul quotes Isaiah 25:8 & Hosea 13:14 to put on display God's triumph

- Death is swallowed in victory – Death's no longer the great equalizer – Gone...Defeated
- Paul taunts death 'Where is your victory...where is your sting' – Takes guts talk smack
Can you stare down death with this kind of bold declaration? **YOU HAVE NO VICTORY HERE**
Could you imagine taking on Mike Tyson in his prime? Not enough money...kill you
- Paul is saying...come on death...what have you got? You have no power...no sting
⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Sin is trying to kill you with stinger...the power of sin is the law = POINTS OUT OUR SIN
Lots of things with stingers in the middle east: Scorpions – Spiders – Snakes – Bugs = Feared
What are you more afraid of...a fly or an Africanized Killer Hornet? Why? Stinger
Death carries a big stinger...and you don't have to fear it...why? JESUS...SATAN...WINNING

Because we're fueled by hope, we're comforted by the release of death's grip

Here is something crazy = For all of those who are in Christ...death makes things better

- We all need to stay here on earth and accomplish our mission...but death isn't scary
Everyone...take a breath. One day you will take your last breath here & your next in heaven
Our hope is secured by a Heavenly Victory that was secured for us in Christ at the cross

4. Our hope is secured by a: Heavenly mission (v58)

- ⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. Paul ends with an action point

⇒ Because we have nothing to fear he has two 'bes' and a 'do' and a 'know'

- Concluding thought...after everything you've learned about: Resurrection – Death
- Be steadfast – Hold firmly onto God – Someone trying to steal a prized possession
 - Now more than ever hold to His Truth – His Promises – His Word – His Spirit
- Be immovable – Lineman. Protect yourself from being swayed away from Christ.
 - How is that done? Know how to catch the lies and throw them away | Holy Hope
- Always abounding in the work: Abounding means more than just doing things
 - it means living intentionally and with expectation.
 - It's focusing on Christ's mission in every corner of life.
 - Prioritizing the work of Christ doesn't only mean service in the church.
- Know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. This work isn't for nothing.

Sometimes it feels that way doesn't it? Growing in Christ? Evangelism? Prayer?

You are not the judge of your labor...God is – God is moving the board through you

Every prayer prayed - word of encouragement - act of service - choice to reflect Christ

Even the small, unseen acts carry weight because they are part of God's story of redemption

Because we're fueled by hope, every act for Christ counts

I started with a question Are you tired from the war? Battle torn...blood on the uniform

As followers of Christ, we are not taken out of the war...we are at the center of it

- I know you're tired...I know you're weary...how comforting is it to now
All of your labor that is in the Lord is not in vain...He sees it...how the mission is completed
God is glorified in our work for Him...even when that work is hard
We have a Triumphant Secured Hope...so stay in the fight