



Message Series Guide

Imperfect Church – I Corinthians

Part 27 – Mystery and Victory

I Corinthians 15:50-58

Our work in the Lord is not a waste of time. Our service is not in vain. Our worship is not a waste. Because of the resurrection, what we give for the cause of Christ and His kingdom has eternal value. I Corinthians 15:50–58 powerfully concludes Paul's teaching on the resurrection of Christ and His believers. When the last trumpet blasts and Christ returns for those who belong to Him, all believers in Jesus, living and dead, will be transformed into the glorified, eternal bodies God has promised us. Death will be defeated forever, never to hurt anyone again. Sin brings death, and the law is the power of sin, but God has given us the victory over death by forgiving our sin through faith in Jesus and by His grace.

READ:

I Corinthians 15:50-58 • Luke 16:15a • I Thessalonians 4:14-17 • Matthew 24:40-41 • Romans 6:4 • I Corinthians 6:14 • Isaiah 25:8; 26:19 • Hosea 13:14

- Paul states a basic principle in verse 50 that normal, human bodies (flesh and blood) cannot inherit the kingdom of God. What does this mean? Why do you think Paul begins with this principle? Why do our possessions and accomplishments on this earth have very little eternal value?
- What is the mystery Paul mentions in verse 51? Why does he refer to as a *mystery*? What is the *change* Paul talks about in verse 50–54? How does this change differ from other mentions of change in Scripture? Why is change (transformation) necessary in regard to eternity with Christ?
- What do we learn about the end times from verses 51-53? Why urgency does this verse create? What is the doctrine of glorification? When does glorification occur? What will the result of glorification?
- Paul references two Old Testament passages regarding death (Isaiah 25:8 + Hosea 13:14). How do these passages give you comfort about death and the grave? What is the 'conquest' described in these verses?
- How did Christ defeat sin, death and the grave? What have we received from Christ's victory over these things? How does the resurrection give us confidence in this age? How does the resurrection help us to know that our labor and our life are not in vain?

DISCUSS:

- What do you/we fear most about death? Why is it important that both Christ's resurrection and our resurrection overcomes death? How does communion help us remember the power of resurrection?
- How does the hope of resurrection and eternity affect the way you pursue work and success in life? How do we keep the right perspective of life here and eternal life yet to come? What message is there in this passage for those who grow weary of this physical world and long to escape to heaven?
- What are you doing because Christ is raised from the dead? Or to turn it around, what would you not be doing unless Christ was raised from the dead? In short, how has Christ's resurrection changed your current living?

PRAY:

Pray that God will confirm and apply the power of resurrection in your heart and life everyday.

RESPOND:

Identify one area of service that you will give yourself to this week, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.



Sermon Notes
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Because the tomb is empty...our service, our blessings and our eternity are full.

Mystery = a truth that our human senses alone can never discover.

Doctrine of Glorification:

God's final removal of sin from the life of those who are saved, allowing them to become perfectly conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

Our decision to accept or reject Christ in this life determines our destination in the next life (eternity).

QUOTE:

The doctrine of the Second Coming teaches us that we do not and cannot know when the world drama will end. The curtain may be rung down at any moment: say, before you have finished reading this paragraph. – C.S. Lewis

Our sins will never take us where the victory of Christ can't restore us.