

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 15:50-58

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET...

DISCOVERING THE WILL OF GOD FOR OUR EVERYDAY LIFE

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Rapture, Eternity, Resurrection, Salvation

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood** cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does **corruption** inherit incorruption. :51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - - :52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

:53 For this **corruptible** must put on incorruption, and this **mortal** must put on immortality. :54 So when this **corruptible** has put on incorruption, and this **mortal** has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "*Death is swallowed up in victory.*" :55 "*O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?*" :56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. :57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. :58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

According to God – Which Makes it Right;

All scripture, the Bible is given by inspiration of God.

The rapture doctrine of the church – a biblical doctrine,

is something that 50 years ago only a Bible scholar would have been familiar with. Today the teaching on the rapture is more prevalent than ever. Books by the hundreds have been published and the topic itself is a common discussion among even non-religious people.

The Rapture's False Prophets

In recent years people have tried to figure out just when the rapture will take place. Even though the Bible says that it is a sudden event, without warning and imminent – still date-setters have had their go at it only to be justifiably embarrassed the day after.

"But of that day and hour no one knows..."

Matthew 24:36

Matthew 24:42

Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

ON YOUR MARK. GET SET...

1.) Bro

v. 50-52a

Paul says to the Bro's in Christ

1a.) Bro, change is coming

v. 50

Now this I say, **brethren**,
that **flesh and blood** cannot inherit the kingdom of God;
nor does **corruption** inherit **incorruption**.

(This is to invoke a sad face of hopelessness. We're doomed.)

This "**flesh and blood**" means that our earthly resources cannot add to or benefit the spiritual world to come.

Luke 16:15

And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

You and I - as we are now cannot go to heaven.

Heaven is So real and It's reality - - That we're not suited for the place nor would we survive - - in this skin. We're contaminated and we all need a new suit.

corruption *fqoraġ phthora*, *fthor-ah'*; the decay, the ruined (that which was in an instant, spontaneous) the destroyed.

We would be so out-of-place there in these bodies.

(We would stink the place up like Pig-Pen in a Charlie Brown episode.)

In our previous verses Paul showed us our family roots – we are descendants of Adam. We are from Adam.

But now as believers, we are in Christ. There is an eternal difference between being from Adam and being in Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:22

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Incorruption *ajfqarsi÷a aphthrsia*, that which cannot be corrupted.
The Incorruptible(s). The Genuine(s). The Sincere(s).

It's True Because We Are Now "In Christ"

We Are The Incorruptible(s). The Genuine(s). The Sincere(s).

(Sounds like action-figures and super-heroes - - hey wait a minute, we are.)

ON YOUR MARK – GET SET “BRO”

1b.) Bro, death doesn't win

v. 51a

Behold, I tell you a **mystery**: We shall not all **sleep**...

Technically – Look Very Carefully @ This.

Not only are believers guaranteed Resurrection, But something really big is coming...

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

:15 For this we say to you **by the word of the Lord**, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. :16 For **the Lord Himself** will descend from heaven **with a shout, with the voice of an archangel**, and with **the trumpet of God**. And the dead in Christ will rise first. :17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. :18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

mystery = by the word of the Lord

Philippians 3:20-21

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, :21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body,

1c.) Bro, it's about time

v. 51b-52

but we shall all be **changed** - - :52 in a **moment**, in the **twinkling** of an eye...

Bible Students Listen Up

Three Powerful, Radical, Exciting, and Comforting Words are Used Here
be **Changed**, in a **Moment**, in the **Twinkling**

Changed grk: ajllaʒssw allasso, al-las'-so;
to transform. to take and make different. To rearrange.

Remember the KERNEL OF CORN

Moment grk: aʒtomoʒ atomos, at'-om-os;
The smallest particle. An irreducible, indivisible particle of time. time reduced to its smallest form. (a remarkable insight for being 2,000 years old)

Twinkling grk: rjiph/ rhipe, hree-pay´;

A jerk, a spasm, a quiver, a sparkle, a gleam of light in the eye.

It is from this awesome doctrine of the Bible that we get 3 amazing passages.

John 14:1-3

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. :2 In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. :3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Luke 21:34-36

“Be careful, because your hearts could be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of this life, and that day will close in on you unexpectedly like a trap. :35 For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. :36 *Be always on the watch, and pray (why?) that you may escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.*”

Titus 2:13

looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing
of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

looking prosde÷comai prosdechomai, *pros-dekh´-om-ahee*;

to intercourse, to admit in, to host, to open up with great confidence of being accepted and with great patience until then.

The Imminent Appearing of Jesus Christ Creates;

Comfort and Assurance - - Anticipation and Excitement

1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. :3 **And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

purifies aJgni÷zw hagnizo, *hag-nid´-zo*; to keep clean, to keep your life set apart from the world. To stay with Him. To keep on being sanctified.

Stop Thinking About What People Think or Say About You.

You’re to be as close to Jesus as is humanly possible. You follow Him.

And So We Will Be Changed – This Change is Change You Can Believe In.

Our human bodies must be restructured thru either resurrection or by rapture.

In this context of rapture – it will be total and instant.

I'm glad too because if my human eye can only see the visible light spectrum between 390 and 750nm – then imagine what we will be able to see in heaven? (*Ultra, Xray, Gamma smaller, smaller...*)
And what about the sound waves. My ears can only hear between certain wavelengths - *Imagine what things will sound like in heaven?*

ON YOUR MARK. GET SET...

2.) Go

v. 52b-55

2a.) Go with assurance

v. 52b

...at the **last trumpet**. For **the** (*our*) **trumpet** will sound, and **the dead** will be raised **incorruptible**, and **we** (*Paul's 'we' statements*) shall be **changed**.

A Theological Note Here:

There should be no confusion here. Whatever the **Last Trumpet** is – it will be **the Trumpet** that (#1) **Sounds**, that (#2) **Calls** the believers' dead body to be shot out of the graves and those believers living at that moment (#3) will be "instantaneously" raptured upward.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

This Trumpet is the "Trumpet of God"

and not the same trumpet of the **angel** during the tribulation period.

That trumpet(s) is a trumpet of woe and judgment. This Trumpet is one of great joy and release. Not to mention the fact that this letter of Corinthians was in circulation for some 30 years before the book of Revelation was given to John.

There are 2 awesome pictures here for us.

#1 - Every Citizen of the Roman Empire was familiar with the "Last Trumpet" meaning. A Roman general would have the first trumpet blast calling his troops "to detach camp" the second trumpet blast called for the "fall into line" and the last trumpet was "depart".

#2 - In the Jewish mind there was the first trumpet that gathered God's people together and then the last trumpet that "called them forth"

So What Will That Be Like?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I do not want you to be ignorant, (*know the mystery*) brethren, (*bro*) concerning **those** who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. :14 For if **we** believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him **those** who sleep in Jesus. :15 For this **we** say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we** who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede **those** who are asleep. :16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. :17 Then

we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with **them** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus **we** shall always (*go*) be with the Lord. **:18 Therefore** comfort one another with these words.

There's Absolutely No Denying It – Paul Expected Jesus in His Day every generation of Christians have held to this “Perpetuity of Hope.”

ON YOUR MARK – GET SET “GO”

2b.) Go with expectancy

v. 53

For this **corruptible must** put on **incorruption**,
(Referring to the physical dead-bodies of those believers who have departed into heaven.)

and this **mortal must** put on **immortality**.
(Referring to the physical, living-bodies of believers at Christ's rapture-appearing.)

and this **mortal must** put on **immortality**.

This “**must**” demands action. It demands termination.

1 John 3:2b-3

...we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. **:3** *And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

2c.) Go with peace

v. 54-55

:54 So when this **corruptible** has put on **incorruption**, and this **mortal** has put on **immortality**, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “**Death is swallowed up in victory.**”
:55 “*O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?*”

This is God's version of scoffing. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ has disabled Death and Hell forever. Man's greatest fear and threat has been utterly destroyed.

(Death and the grave can only temporarily separate us.)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I do not want you to be ignorant, (*bro*) brethren, concerning those who have (*died*) fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. **:14** For *if we believe that Jesus died and rose again*, even so **God will bring with Him** those who (*who's dead body will be resurrected when he brings their living souls with him*) sleep in Jesus.

The Grave & Death has Become Toothless Against Eternity.

When we were kids in O.C. we would catch

bees with our bare hands. Does anyone remember doing that? – *beats internet games hands down*
<http://sierrafoothillgarden.wordpress.com/2010/11/15/a-bee-and-a-wasp-that-are-not/>

But You Had to Be Sure of One Thing Before You Grabbed the Bee
(There had to be an “H” on the back of the bee.)

Listen to me friend. We make such a big deal out of death. But all believers must remember that death for us now - is like a latch that falls off the door – no longer keeping us out.

ON YOUR MARK. GET SET...

3.) Know

v. 56-58

3a.) Know the victory

v. 56-57

The **sting** of death is **sin**, and the **strength** of sin is the **law**.

Listen Church.

**If the demands of the law can be satisfied then they can be removed,
– then we’re home free. But how can we get free from the law?**

Why Do We Fear Death?

Because The Fear of Death is Rooted in the Power of Sin.
(Because the law is still at work - killing us).

2 Corinthians 3:6-7

who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. :7 But if the ministry of death, written *and* engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which *glory* was passing away,

Notice Here – The Source of Death and Grave and Hell is the Law. Sin fuels the venomous-sting of death. And the law demands my justifiable condemnation.

.....
Verse 57
.....

But (*in contrast*) thanks be to God,
who ***gives*** us ***the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.***

Romans 8:1-4

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. :2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. :3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, :4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

1 John 3:16

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us.

who ***gives*** us

He who keeps giving us – again and again and again one layer after another of forgiveness and power to be freed from a sin and then the next sin until our life is changed.

Verse 57

through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

ON YOUR MARK – GET SET “KNOW”

3b.) Know the power

v. 58a

Therefore, (*because of that*) my **beloved** brethren,
be **steadfast, immovable**, always **abounding** in the work of the Lord...

Be steadfast - in the work of the Lord...

eJdraivoß hedraios, hed-rah'-yos; from a derivative of **eʒomai hezomai**
to sit down. To become rock-like sedentary, To hunker down.

Colossians 1:23

if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and **steadfast**,
and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel

Be immovable - in the work of the Lord...

ajmetaki÷nhtoß ametakinetos, am-et-ak-in'-ay-tos;
to become anchored-like. To be set in stone or to be in a rock-like-fortress

Be always abounding - in the work of the Lord...

perisseu/w perisseuo, per-is-syoo'-o; to be super abounding in excess. to be in a state of
abundance, to be better off, to have more than enough. to be bounding and rebounding

3c.) Know the mission

v. 58b

knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

knowing

eiñdw eido, i'-do; be fully aware of, be certain of. Have no doubt.
Ever wonder if what you're doing is going to matter?

Galatians 6:9

And let us not grow weary while doing good,
for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Will You Agree with God That

Rom. 3:23 you have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God,

Rom. 6:23a That you understand that the wages of sin *is* death,

Rom. 6:23b but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom. 5:8 Believing today that God demonstrates His own love toward you, in that while you were still a sinner, Christ died for you.

Rom. 10:13 But He now says to you that *"if you would call on the name of the LORD you shall be saved."*

Rom. 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. :10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

>>>> The Cross, The Christ, The Call <<<<

Come Forward for Prayer Today

End of Study

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