

Not in Vain
1 Cor. 15:50-58

“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57) Notice that this triumphant statement is in the continuous present tense. Paul is not saying that God will give us the victory in the future or that He has given us victory in the past. He is saying that God is continuously giving us victory throughout all the todays of our life. Jesus Christ is dynamically, explosively alive in our lives, and we can draw upon His resurrection power from moment to moment

Whenever I fail or falter, whenever I'm afraid, I go to Him for forgiveness, for strength, for courage, for a fresh taste of the resurrection life. Whenever I am tempted to sin, I'm reminded that sin is the sting of death, and Jesus gives me new resurrection power to say no to Satan's deadly trap, Death has lost its sting. That is why Paul concludes: 'Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.' (1 Corinthians 15:58)”

- I. The resurrection we will all experience as follower of Jesus Christ reunites our bodies with our spirits to physically dwell with God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the cherubim, the seraphim, the angels and the saints forever and ever. He will give us a body that will bear the likeness of his Son; it will be a spiritual body, an imperishable body, a glorious body, a powerful body and a sinless body prepared by the Lord himself to inherit his kingdom.

1 Cor. 15:42-50

Rom. 5:12

Rom. 5:17

1 Peter 1:3-5 *Praise be to the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*

- II. The day we receive our imperishable glorified bodies is the day we hear the trumpet call of God calling us up to be with his Son, Jesus Christ. We will know and understand instantaneously that we are being clothed with our heavenly dwelling. We will also know, through the incredible change that takes place physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually, that we are being transformed into an immortal state of existence free from death and the ravages of sin.

1 Cor. 15:50-56
Rom. 11:25-26
1 Thess. 4:16-17
Matt 24:36-42
1 Cor. 5:4-5
Rom. 6:8-9
Hosea 13:14

Ironside says that the last trumpet was a figure of speech that came from the Roman military, when they broke camp. The first trumpet meant, "strike the tents and prepare to leave"; the second trumpet meant, "fall into line"; the third and last trumpet meant "march away." This last trumpet describes the Christian's "marching orders" at the rapture of the Church. Guzik

Isaiah 25:8-9 *he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."*

- III. Even though it is hard for us to imagine what life will be like for us in the resurrected state, we are to understand that we must keep ourselves ready for the trumpet call that will call us heavenward. Therefore, we are exhorted to stand firm in our faith through the victory over death and sin that is ours in Jesus Christ, by giving ourselves fully to serving him well.

1 Cor. 15:57-58

2 Timothy 1:9-10 *9He has saved us and called us to a holy life-not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, 10but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*