

## The Corinthian Letters, Lesson 62, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:50-58, "The Death of Death"

↪ Gravity is no novelty to any of us; we accept it, we are used to it, we have to embrace it because there are no exceptions to it. They say the strongest gravitational pull in the universe is a black hole. There is something with a stronger pull than a black hole: Death; even a blackholes die! In fact, everything dies, blackholes, light, the sun, all stars, earth, all planets, everything dies. There is nothing that escapes the gravity of death. Think about it, our fitness programs, cosmetics, medication and surgeries are all attempts to cheat the ultimate gravity, but no one can cheat it forever. Death swallows up everything and always has, with one exception! There he will remove the cloud of gloom, the shadow of death that hangs over the earth. He will swallow up death forever! The Sovereign LORD will wipe away all tears." Isaiah 25:7-8. This was prophesied of Jesus 3000 years ago. Jesus has swallow up death through His resurrection and will remove every last trace of death from the universe.

---

### 1. The Death of Death: 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:50-58

- ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:50, Paul has been testifying to the fact of the death of death by explaining the differences between our current bodies and our resurrected ones. Think of this way: our current, corrupted flesh and blood, cannot be in Heaven for the same reason that a caterpillar can't fly, in both cases, they have to transformed. A caterpillar and the butterfly that it turns into are the same creature, they are the same genetically and, yet, they are not the same. A caterpillar will never fly without being transformed. Similarly, our "caterpillar" earthly bodies have to be transformed to experience Heaven and eternity.
- ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:51, they must be changed, and they will be. A mystery in the New Testament is not the same as a mystery in our language and culture. For us, a mystery is something that is suspected and is searched out until it is understood. In the New Testament, a mystery is something that is completely unknown, never suspected or considered, and is unknowable through any means except God's revelation. Paul is saying, "I'm about to tell you something that no one, not prophet, priest or servant of God has ever known prior to the New Testament era." Something never known or suspected before: not everybody will die!, not all believers will experience physical death.
- ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:52 "in a moment," the Greek word is "atomas." The Greeks believed the atom to be the smallest thing in nature and, thus, indivisible. This refers to the smallest portion of time possible. "The last trumpet," seven trumpets were traditionally blown during the process of engagement and marriage of a Hebrew couple. Each trumpet signified a different step in the process of their engagement that culminated in the marriage ceremony. The last trumpet was blown when everything was ready for the official wedding.
- ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:53 "corruptible, incorruptible" for Christians who have passed away, "mortal, immortality" Christians who have not passed away but remain until His coming. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:54 understand, Christ hasn't merely halted death; He has reversed the process. The resurrection means that Christ has and will rob from death all of its previous victories. Everything that death has sucked in, Jesus will make it spit out. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:55 when death stung Jesus, it actually stung itself to death! The stinger has been stung! The Grim Reaper has been Reaped! 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:56 Jesus defeated sin on the cross, and when we trust what He has done, we die with His death through the Law that we have broken.

### 2. The conclusion of the entire matter: Since our resurrection is a certainty, how should we live?

- ✓ These incredible truths aren't just for the hereafter, they are for the here and now. Our resurrection should affect how we live. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58 "steadfast, immovable" never forget or be moved away from what God has for us, "labor" working to the point of exhaustion. It is the only labor that is not in vain.
- 
- 
-