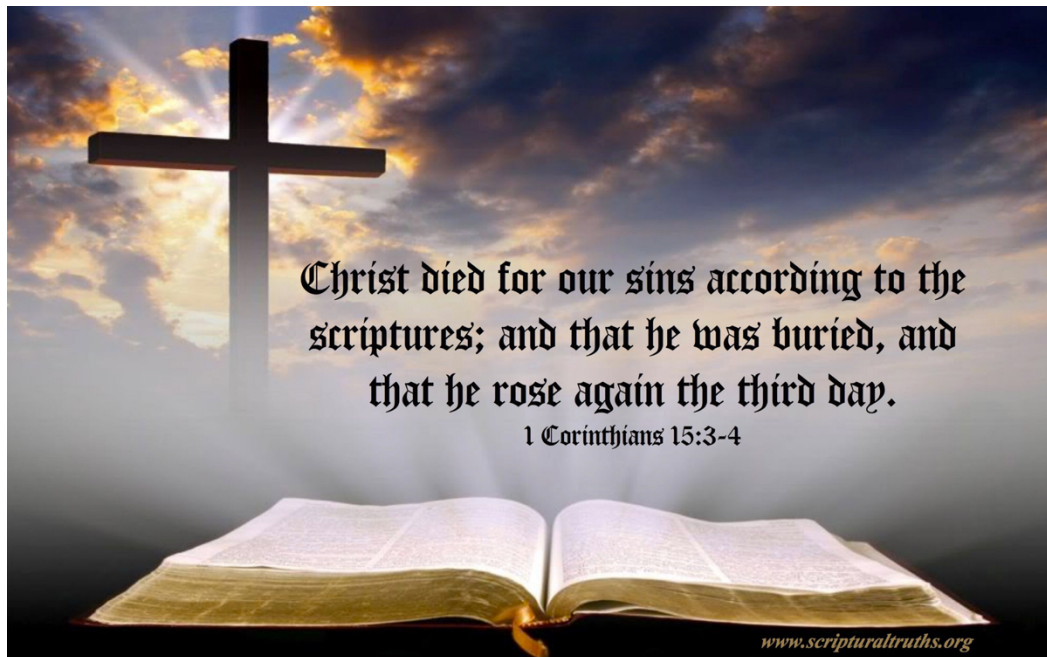


1 Corinthians Chapter 15



This Chapter shows us the relevance of the Resurrection as nowhere else in the Bible.

1 Corinthians verses 1-2

{15:1} Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

{15:2} By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

There is only one Gospel.

Paul says to keep it exactly as he has told it and to keep the faith in what he has told.

1 Corinthians verses 3-4

{15:3} For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

{15:4} And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

RESURRECTION

What has Paul told:

– Christ **DIED** for our sins

So Paul is clear that Jesus DIED, his physical body is dead. His heart stopped.

The Islam tells us that Jesus was taken away from God right before he would die, so Jesus was not dead but saved by God.

The death of Jesus is highly important to understand.

If Jesus did not die, then we have no one who payed for our sins ! We have no savior and we still are sinners, all of us ! What would be the responsibility for all of us concerning sinning ? So sinners will be facing the wrath of God, sinners will be standing before the great White Throne to be judged. Hell will be the only destination for all of us. What is the sense of talking about Jesus death anyway then ? We are all liars.

*Paul states: ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES.....of course we talk about THE OLD TESTAMENT
Read Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22 and it is clear about what scriptures Paul is referring to.*

*– Christ was **BURIED***

If Jesus died he also was buried, simple as that.

*– Jesus **ROSE** again on the third day*

This is the most important element for ALL of us: the RESURRECTION !

A seed is planted and must die first to become a flower.

No resurrection, no new life, no hope for all of us. We live here on earth and we die, that's it. We have had a happy or unhappy life, we should have no responsibility for each other, so who cares ? So to whom should we be accountable ?

Again Paul stated ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES. Jona is the only Book that gives us the sign of three days.

1 Corinthians verses 5-11

{15:5} And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

{15:6} After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

{15:7} After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

{15:8} And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

{15:9} For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

{15:10} But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace [which was bestowed] upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

{15:11} Therefore whether [it were] I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

WITNESSES

Are there any witnesses concerning the resurrection of Christ Jesus ?

The apostles and above 500 brothers have witnessed the resurrection and have SEEN the glorified Jesus, risen out of His death. At the time Paul wrote this, many witnesses were STILL ALIVE ! Paul mentions himself being the last witness of all. He who persecuted God's Church. Paul tells us very clearly he had been saved by the GRACE of God and ALL of them Preached the Gospel of Jesus by the same GRACE.

How many proof do we all need to BELIEVE the Gospel of Christ ?

He died, was buried and resurrected and above 500 people have seen Jesus alive after He died.

If we do not believe in the resurrection then the whole Bible is a fake and God's plan with humanity is one big lie !

1 Corinthians verses 12-19

{15:12} Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

{15:13} But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: {15:14} And if Christ be not risen, then [is] our preaching vain, and your faith [is] also vain.

{15:15} Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

{15:16} For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

{15:17} And if Christ be not raised, your faith [is] vain; ye are yet in your sins. {15:18} Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

{15:19} If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

DISBELIEVE

In Corinthe some people said ,there is no resurrection of the dead !

*Imagine that Jesus death and resurrection was witnessed and that those people were still alive. And in that same situation some people did **not believe it**.*

I can imagine that Paul was flabbergasted totally. How could people not believe that ?

Then Paul sums up the consequences of their non believe and having a non resurrection situation:

– preaching and faith being in vain

– we remain in our sins

– all fallen asleep in Christ are lost

– if hope in Christ is mentioned to be so, only for the time we are alive on this earth we all are the most miserable men

In all New Testaments scriptures, where Eternal Life is mentioned being the gift and the target of our God the Father for all of us who believe in His Son, thus the Resurrection, is FALSE, A COMPLETE LIE ! So death without a resurrection is forever being dead and death of Christ simply has NO MEANING AT ALL ! We live this life and follow Jesus , we die and bye bye.

BORN AGAIN

I want to read you these verses in John Chapter 3:

{3:1} There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: {3:2} The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. {3:3} Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.** {3:4} Nicodemus saith unto him, **How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?** {3:5} Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and [of] the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.** {3:6} **That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** {3:7} Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again.** {3:8} The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. {3:9} Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? {3:10} Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? {3:11} Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. {3:12} If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you [of] heavenly things? {3:13} And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, [even] the Son of man which is in heaven.

So how in heavens name can we enter the Kingdom of God ?

*We must be **BORN AGAIN OF WATER AND SPIRIT** !*

Jesus DIED in the flesh, was BURIED and was RAISED out of the death ,in other words:

BORN AGAIN OF WATER AND SPIRIT !

*So **NO RESURRECTION** then **NO REBIRTH** and **NO KINGDOM OF HEAVEN** !*

The Kingdom of God ?

Mattew {19:23} Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. {19:24} And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Mattew {21:43} Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Mark {1:14} Now after that John was put in prison, **Jesus** came into Galilee, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God**, {1:15} And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is

at hand: repent ye, and **believe the gospel**.

Mark {4:11} And he said unto them, **Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God:** but unto them that are without, all these [things] are done in parables:

One example of such a parable;

Mark {4:26} And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;
{4:27} And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, **he knoweth not how**. {4:28} For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. {4:29} But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

Mark {9:47} And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: **it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:**

So Jesus tells us we can enter into the kingdom of God, does not matter how, one eye, two eyes, whatever. And for all people like Jehovah Witnesses who do not believe there is a hell:

“than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire”

These are WORDS FROM JESUS HIMSELF ! Jehovah Witnesses simply say: Jesus is a liar !

HOLY GHOST

Romans {14:17} For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

John {14:26} But **the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost,**

John {15:26} But when **the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father,** [even] the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, **he shall testify of me:**

{15:27} And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

John {16:7} Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: **for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.**

SO IF JESUS DEPARTED , HOW IS HE ABLE TO SEND SOMEONE ? IF HE DIED HE IS DEAD AND NOT BEING ABLE TO DO ANYTHING AT ALL !

1 Corinthians verses 20-22

{15:20} **But** now is Christ risen from the dead, [and] become the firstfruits of them that slept.

{15:21} For since by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead.

{15:22} For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

{15:23} But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

BELIEVE

*Paul begins with such a promising word **BUT !***

This is the intro of the TRUTH about the resurrection.

Adam sinned and due to that we all die. God is eternal life and He wanted to create images of Himself, we human beings, from whom Adam was the first creation. Perfect with eternal life in himself. Of course, he was a perfect Image of God. He did not hand out his free will to God, so Perfection became Imperfection and all things belonging to Imperfection are SINS. So Adam is the first example for us that we die with no hope at all.

BUT.....Christ came, in flesh and blood, Perfection, so that ALL who believe in Him, that he DIED for our sins, His RESSURECTION makes us ALIVE.

And Christ is the firstfruit.

*Remember that we are **REBORN** already **IN THE SPIRIT** ! His resurrection made us alive !!*

We are images of Gods Son.

Romans {8:28} And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose. {8:29} For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] **conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

Are we reborn already ? Are we alive ?

Romans {6:11} Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be **dead indeed unto sin**, but **alive** unto God **through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Romans {6:13} Neither yield ye your members [as] instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, **as those that are alive from the dead**, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness unto God.

1 Thessalonians {4:15} For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that **we which are alive** [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

Some verses about the RESURRECTION in Revelation

Revelation {1:17} And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: {1:18} **I [am] he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.**

Maybe Jehovah Witnesses and all people who do not believe there is a hell, should read the last sentence about Hell. Jesus has keys ? Fake keys ? Well if we want to read the Bible and decide for ourselves when things we read have to be taken literally or not, where is the end ?

Did Jesus walk on water ? If we believe He did, then why are keys of hell suddenly not meant to be taken literally. Are all plagues of Egypt just symbolic ? Are all miracles of Jesus fake ?

How did Mary become pregnant ? Oh yeah, let us believe only the things which fit into our human perspectives and justify what we as human beings believe !

Is that not the same as eating from the tree of good and evil ?

And what did God tell Adam about the consequences to do that ? He would die !

Yes God is a God of Love, so Hell with punishment ? Yes, for all those who reject the truth, yes !

*And remember that there is no religion on earth where there are so many differences than in Christianity ! Yes Jesus is the son of God, but He is not God ! How many bible scriptures tell us that there is only ONE GOD ! So what is Jesus then ? Another God ? Half God ? You see, we fool ourselves by eating from the wrong tree. We simply have to **BELIEVE** and **ACCEPT** ALL we can not explain with our limited capacities of humanity and accept what the Bible teaches us in that situation.*

I have been cast out personally by a Jehovah Witness after many conversations. God used me to be an instrument to let him test his own organisation. But like many Israelites in the Old Testament, his heart is hardened and is very stubborn, scripture after scripture was rejected by him. Paul only wrote his letters for the anointed, in other words, Jesus only died and rose to a select group of people.

I pray for him every day, that God will show him the truth personally. I thank him to show me the insight of such a false organisation like the Watchtower. This I can use trying to save others from the same human organisation. I suffered personally from that situation, but the suffering made me only stronger. It gives me strength and God showed me once again His power from suffering.

Now back to 1 Corinthians verses 20-22

Revelation {2:8} And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, **which was dead, and is alive;**

Made Alive ?

We have to understand that we are alive already in the eyes of God the Father due to our belief into His Son. We can not sin anymore due to that.

Romans {4:7} [Saying,] Blessed [are] they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. {4:8} Blessed [is] **the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.** Romans {6:18} Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

‘Made alive’ in Revelation 2:8 is associated with Jesus Coming, That we change and will be like Christ with a glorified body !

1 Corinthians verses 24-28

{15:24} Then [cometh] the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. {15:25} For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

{15:26} The last enemy [that] shall be destroyed [is] death.

{15:27} For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under [him, it is] manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. {15:28} And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

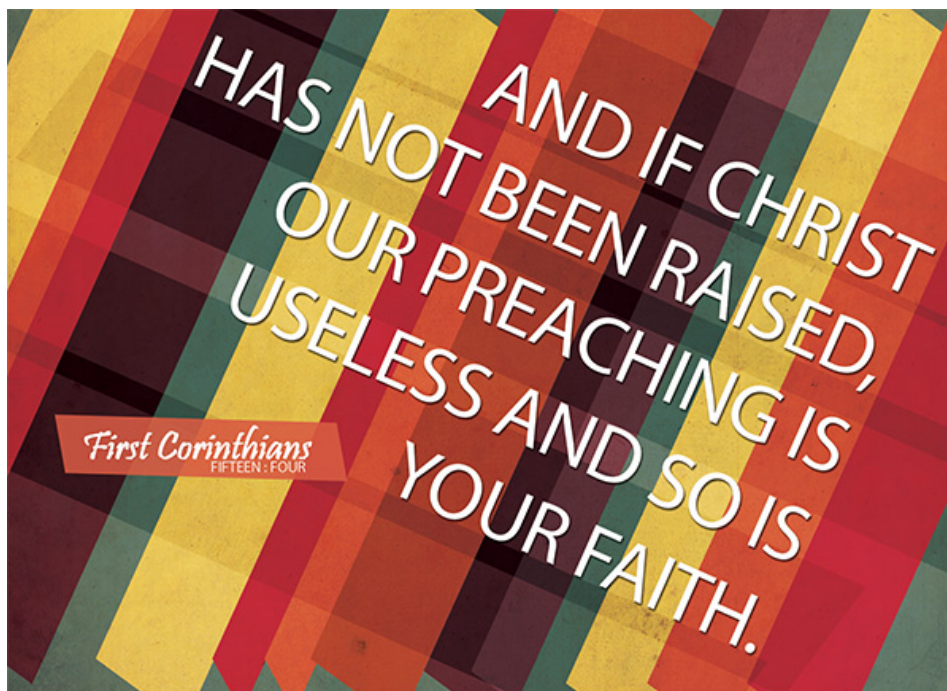
THE KINGDOM

Paul ends up in verse 23 with Christ at His coming !

So then there is a sequence following:

second coming, Kingdom of God on earth, Jesus being the King, all enemies defeated, Jesus submission to His Father.

So to establish the Kingdom ,everything, so all authority and power is given into the hands of Jesus by the Father.



1 Corinthians verses 29-34

{15:29} Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead? {15:30} And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?

{15:31} I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. {15:32} If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die. {15:33} Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

{15:34} Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak [this] to your shame.

WHAT IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION ?

Paul tells us clearly that he himself is the living proof why he dedicates his life for the truth in the resurrection.

1 Corinthians verses 35-41

{15:35} But some [man] will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

{15:36} [Thou] fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

{15:37} And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other [grain:]

{15:38} But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

{15:39} All flesh [is] not the same flesh: but [there is] one [kind of] flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, [and] another of birds.

{15:40} [There are] also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial [is] one, and the [glory] of the terrestrial [is] another.

{15:41} [There is] one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for [one] star differeth from [another] star in glory.

WHAT WILL WE BECOME ?

When a seed is planted in the ground it dies; decomposing, it ceases to exist in its seed form, but life comes from inside that dead seed.

John 12:24

‘Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.’

Just as God gives a new body to that plant that rises from the dead seed, so he can give a resurrection body to a man who dies. As there are vastly different bodies and forms in God’s created universe that are suited for all kinds of existence, so God can design a body perfect for resurrection life.

1 Corinthians verses 42-44

{15:42} So also [is] the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

{15:43} It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

{15:44} It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

John MacArthur:

Focusing directly on the resurrection body, Paul gives four sets of contrasts to show how the new body will differ from the present one (cf. v. 54; Phil. 3:20–21): 1) no more sickness and death (“perishable body”); 2) no more shame because of sin (“dishonor”); 3) no more frailty in temptation (“weakness”); and 4) no more limits to the time/space sphere (“natural”).

1 Corinthians verses 45-49

{15:45} And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [was made] a quickening spirit.

{15:46} Howbeit that [was] not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

{15:47} The first man [is] of the earth, earthy: the second man [is] the Lord from heaven.

{15:48} As [is] the earthy, such [are] they also that are earthy: and as [is] the heavenly, such [are] they also that are heavenly.

{15:49} And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

ADAM AND JESUS

Paul shows us two human beings but with great differences.

Here Paul answers the question (v. 35) more specifically by showing that the resurrection body of Jesus Christ is the prototype.

Paul begins with following : the first Adam

Genesis 2:7

‘And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.’

Genesis 1:31

‘And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.’

With the addition of two words, “first” and “Adam.” Adam was created with a natural body, good in every way.

The last Adam is Jesus Christ

Romans 5:19, 21

'For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.'

Paul is saying that through the first Adam we received our natural bodies, but through the last Adam we will receive our spiritual bodies in resurrection. Adam's body was the prototype of the natural, Christ's body of the resurrection.

Acts 1:11

'Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.'

Philippians 3:20-21

'For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.'

John 3:1-3

'There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'

We will bear the image of his body fit for heaven as we have borne the image of Adam's on earth.

{15:50} Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

{15:51} Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

{15:52} In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

{15:53} For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality.

{15:54} So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

{15:55} O death, where [is] thy sting? O grave, where [is] thy victory?

{15:56} The sting of death [is] sin; and the strength of sin [is] the law.

{15:57} But thanks [be] to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

{15:58} Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

People cannot live in God's eternal heavenly glory the way they are.

*This **mystery** term in verse 51 refers to the truth hidden in the past and revealed in the New Testament.*

Ephesians 3:3-5

'How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and

prophets by the Spirit;'

In this case, the rapture of the church was never revealed in the Old Testament.

John 14:1-3

'Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.'

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

'But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.'

Can we even imagine how fast true believers will transform : by the twinkling of an eye.

Then the verses 54-57.

Paul enhanced his joy at the reality of resurrection by quoting :

Isaiah 25:8

'He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it.'

Hosea 13:14

'I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.'

The sin that was exposed by the law of God

Romans 3:23

'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;'

Romans 4:15

'Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.'

Romans 6:23

'For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.'

Galatians 3:10-13

'For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:'

was conquered by Christ in his death:

Romans 5:17

'For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ' .

2 Corinthians 5:21

'For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.'

The hope of resurrection makes all the efforts and sacrifices in the Lord's work worth it. No work done in his name is wasted in light of eternal glory and reward.

Also with thanks to some quotes from John MacArthur.

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