

1 Corinthians 15:50-58 – Living in Light of the Resurrection

I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 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 imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” ⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power 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 brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)

1. What stood out to you from these verses? Through your reading and reflecting on this passage and the message on Sunday, what is God saying to you, how is He convicting you, and what is He laying on your heart?
2. We are all prone (yes, even evangelicals who profess faith in Jesus alone for salvation) to take good things from God and wrongfully pursue them as though they will save us. Read **v.50** of our passage. What “flesh and blood”, “perishable” thing(s) are you prone to turn to as the ‘functional-saviour(s)’ in your life? What are you really hoping to get out of these things when you turn to them?
3. How do your potential ‘functional-saviours’ ultimately over-promise and under-deliver? What will it look like to have a balanced approach to these things – enjoying them as God-honouring, good gifts, but remembering that “the perishable [does not] inherit the imperishable”?
4. Read **v.55-58**. What is Paul’s exhortation in light of our victory over the power of sin and death through Jesus? What things have the tendency to throw you off-course as you try to live *with* God and *for* God? Where does the power to be “steadfast, immovable” in this pursuit come from, and how can you step into it?

5. What does it mean to abound in the work of the Lord? Think about your habits, routines, and how you are spending your time, energy, and resources right now – In what ways are you labouring for that which is in vain? In what ways are you labouring for that which is eternal? In light of what Jesus has accomplished for you and His promises about eternity, are there changes that need to be made in your life and priorities?
6. How does the truth of this passage stir up your love for God and drive you to pursue Him?
7. How is God asking you to respond – First, in confession and prayer to the Lord? And second, in action empowered by God's Spirit?

Spend time in prayer on your own- confessing, thanking, and asking God for what is on your heart- and then get real with, and support one another in prayer in the fellowship of your group.