

1Corinthians 15:51-57 – Because Christ was Raised

Handfuls, Family, Rienecker, Robertson, Geneva, TSK, GreekLexicon, Gill, JFB, PNT, Vincent, Poole, Henry, Calvin, Gray, ps9tit
Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The Apostle Paul spent 50 verses answering those who believed that there was no resurrection 复活. First, he told them that **Christ was raised** from the dead and **seen by hundreds** – proving his resurrection (evidence). Then he showed them **their foolishness of serving** (preaching or listening) **Christ if there were no resurrection** (absurdity) 荒谬. Then he confirmed by Jesus' words that there would be a resurrection. Jesus said that flesh and blood (as you are today) will not be in his kingdom – only glorified bodies will be in heaven - resurrected bodies.

In our text today, the Apostle Paul proceeded to reveal the full teaching God revealed to him regarding the resurrection – how this human resurrection would take place!

Our headings are: **Christ will Raise the Dead and the Living Christians,** and **Christ will Destroy Death's Power over Christians.**

Our goals are: That as Christ's children you will **stop being afraid of death and dying and be comforted that death does not control you,** and **that you praise God for the victory you have over sin, death, and the grave through Jesus Christ.**

Christ will Raise 使复活 Dead and the Living Christians

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 眨眼之间, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the **dead will be raised incorruptible** 清廉的, and we shall be changed.

1. Because Christ was resurrected – alive and well- when he returns at the time of the rapture 欣喜 **he will give new bodies to Christians.** He will instantly give new life and incorruptible bodies to those Christians you are dead. Rotten 腐烂的 (corruptible) bodies will be restored 恢复 (to an incorruptible body). He will also change the bodies of Christians who are alive when he returns. No one knows when Christ will return, but you do know that when he does return incredible changes will take place to your living or dead bodies. Because Christ lives, you will live.
2. **Christ's will quickly change the bodies of his children in the “twinkling of an eye.”** Some poor students of the Bible think that “twinkling of an eye” means that Christ will come in a secret way – quick as a blink – you close your eyes and he is gone – and steal his people away. Pentecostals believe this. But think about the context: Paul is speaking of how quickly the body will change... He is not talking about the nature of the rapture – like some kind of secret rapture...but the result of the rapture...

And it is proper to describe the change that takes place on the living (when they get their new bodies) as a resurrection. Their old bodies will be transformed. You can call this change a resurrection of the body of those who are living... And he said the whole world will see this!

3. When this resurrection is completed, **that will be the end of Christ and Christians on this earth...** Some men have developed elaborate schemes of what will happen after Christ's 2nd coming... like Christ coming a 3rd time. But Christ will have no reason to come back to earth because Christians are “the Salt of the Earth.” With the salt removed, there is no reason to keep the earth.
1Thessalonians 4:15-17 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 领先于... 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.

4. Christ's angel will sound a loud trumpet sound...the trumpet of God...to signal Christ's coming and the instantaneous changing of the bodies at the rapture. Why a trumpet? A trumpet sound was mainly used for victory in war. So this is victory for the Christian... This will show that Christ has full conquered death.

1Thess 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel 天使长, and with the **trumpet of God**. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal 凡人 must put on immortality 不朽.

5. Christ will change his children's bodies because it is necessary (for there will be no flesh and blood in heaven), but he will make them glorious. Your bodies will be changed from dying flesh to living being...Your bodies will be change from mortal to immortality Your bodies will be experience no more sickness, pain, tears, worries, sadness, broken down cars and houses, no freezing cold days...no fear of the future...no trouble with your husband, wife, or children. Your bodies will know peace, joy, and love in fullness. Because Christ was raised from the dead, and because you were in him when he died, you too will be raised with that new and glorious body.

Christ will Destroy Death's Power over Christians

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."

1. This change in the bodies of the dead and the living Christians' will confirm the destruction of death.

Victory over death will occur. This will not be a surprise for Isaiah had prophesied this 2750 years ago that this would happen.

Isaiah 25:8 He will swallow up death forever. And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke 非议 of His people He will take away from all the earth;

55 "O Death, where is your sting 针刺? O Hades 地狱, where is your victory?"

2. Knowing all the pleasures of heaven and freedom from troubles of this world, and seeing the

helplessness of death and hell Paul could not help but laugh at death and hell – at least be sarcastic about. "Death, I laugh at you. You think you are powerful, but there is a resurrection!" **Death has lost its sting 痛楚.** I won't be able to kill.

Revelations 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. "Hades" the grave, cannot control the power of God's resurrection. When a bee or wasp loses its sting (like we use to make it happen) it is not a threat to anyone anymore...or a poisonous snake loses its fangs 毒牙 and venom 毒液...or a scorpion 蝎子 loses its sting and poison...Death's teeth have been pulled. We like to say there are two things you can't avoid: death and taxes... But on that last day at the end of the world when Christ returns, your resurrection at the rapture will destroy the power of death – and taxes. Furthermore death is not punishment for sins but it is your glorious entrance into heaven...so there is no sting there. Death is not a punishment for his sins. Death can rattle 发出咔嚓声 like a rattlesnake 响尾蛇 or hiss like a cobra 眼镜蛇 – but it can't bite. Christ was raised, so you are raised.

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

3. Why does death no longer have a sting? At the resurrection of Jesus, all sin (the mother of death)

was paid for in full so there can be no punishment for you. Christ kept the law and answered all the demands of the law – a law which brought wrath and judgment on you. Romans 4:15. Sin and death cannot therefore hold you accountable. Death (the child) has been abolished 废止 by Christ

dying and resurrection, so sin (the mother) is deprived 缺乏的 of it of its strength. The Apostle Paul taught in other places also about the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection!

Galatians 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:14 - For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

4. The point for you today is: **Death is not something you should fear.** At the resurrection, you too will laugh at death.

Revelation 21:4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

5. Knowing that you have been given the victory – your sins have been removed – for Jesus kept the law for you and faced the punishment for you breaking the law - **you are to thank God.**

Psalms 98:1 A Psalm. Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

All Christ's victories are yours...he gives them to you without charge. Sing to him. Work for him.

Romans 8:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors 征服者 through Him who loved us.

Paul was so confident of this victory over death that **he writes about this future victory in the present tense**...as if it has happened already.

Conclusion:

When Christ returns in the rapture there will be a **resurrection of the dead**. Dead Christians will be raised up and given new immortal bodies, **living Christians will be instantly changed** and given new immortal bodies (a kind of resurrection). Then all Christians will be taken up into the air to be with Jesus Christ forever in heaven. After the resurrection and rapture **there will be no more death, pain, suffering**, fighting with a corrupt government, filling up income tax forms, or paying taxes. Instead, you will have perfect bodies that will last for eternity. You will enjoy all the pleasures heaven along with company of Christ, his holy angels, relatives who died before you, and all the saints from all past and future generations. Death and hell will be permanently defeated.

The Apostle Paul taught about the resurrection to strengthen the faith of the Corinthians and to comfort those who were facing martyrdom 殉教. Remember some of the Corinthians had been told by others that there was no resurrection. Again, the Apostle Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 4:18, commanded the church to comfort each other with the words about the certainty of the resurrection. So let these words strengthen your faith and comfort you. Don't be afraid of death or dying. You will live...and live forevermore. Praise God for Christ's resurrection. Celebrate his resurrection each Sabbath Day with zeal and passion.

If you are not a Christian, I pray that these words of the Christian's great hope will make you uncomfortable until you make your relationship right with God. Right now you are God's enemy and in eternal danger. But God wants you to be his child and to raise you up in the final resurrection. If you don't make yourself right with God you will not be raised up and be given one of those incorruptible bodies...but you will be given a body that will be condemned and made to endure the tortures and fires of hell and an eternally guilty conscience. Will you accept this offer today to be his child and not his enemy? If so, won't you ask God to take away your sins through Jesus Christ...?