

SERMON NOTES

Week 1: April 27, 2014

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Meaning and Purpose

1 Corinthians 15:50–58 (NIV)

⁵⁰ I declare to you, brothers, that **flesh and blood** cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The Death of Jesus _____

- **The Bad News is that the kingdom of God is** _____

⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but **we will all be changed**—⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

- **The Good News is that** _____
 - **That day of** _____
 - **That day will come** _____

⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

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

- **The Good News is that death has** _____

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

- **The good news is that** _____

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS _____

⁵⁸ 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.

- **Our focus shifts** _____
 - **The resurrection** _____ **on which to build**
 - **The resurrection brings** _____
 - **The resurrection** _____ **toward those who trust in Jesus**
- _____ **has great value**

THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS BRINGS _____
_____ **TO OUR LIVES**

SERMON NOTES

WHAT'S NEXT: Habits of the Heart

Week 1: April 27, 2014

Meaning and Purpose

1 Corinthians 15:50–58 (NIV)

⁵⁰ I declare to you, brothers, that **flesh and blood** cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

THE DEATH OF JESUS GIVES NEW MEANING TO OUR LIVES

- The Bad News is that the kingdom of God is denied to us in our present state

⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but **we will all be changed**—⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

- The Good News is that change is coming
 - That day of restoration is certain
 - That day will come at God's appointed time

⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

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

- The Good News is that death has lost all of its power

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

- The good news is that victory comes through Jesus

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS GIVES OUR LIVES PURPOSE

⁵⁸ 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.

- Our focus shifts from heaven to earth
 - The resurrection provides a stable foundation on which to build
 - The resurrection brings assurance of God's power
 - The resurrection reveals God's heart toward those who trust in Jesus
- Our work for God has great value

THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS BRINGS MEANING AND PURPOSE TO OUR LIVES

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

WHAT'S NEXT: Habits of the Heart

CONNECT GROUPS

WEEK 1: April 27, 2014

OPENING

Pastor Bruce mentioned in his sermon: *“We live with constant reminders that in this world there is trouble and sorrow; that, at its core, something is broken; that all is not right with the world. The relentless barrage of such news makes life difficult, bringing a deep that is not easily consoled. Eventually, these experiences leave their marks on the heart. That’s when callouses begin to form in an attempt to protect the heart; to minimize our disappointment; to keep us from despair. As they thicken, we discover our dreams are beginning to fade; we start settling for less: after all something is better than nothing!”*

Rate your response to the above quote? Share your reason with the group.

I strongly agree I agree I strongly disagree

GOING DEEPER

- Review the major points made from today’s text, 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. Discuss the implications gleaned from the apostle Paul regarding the bad news and good news concerning the death of Jesus? What impact does this have on our lives? How does this truth help us to find meaning in life when all around us there are reminders of our mortality?

- *“The resurrection gives purpose to our lives. You might expect that this chapter would end with vs. 57, **“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** However, Paul directs his words to the present; to the tasks before us, to the challenges associated with life on this side of heaven. We are not called to huddle up and retreat from the darkness of this world. We are called to pierce the darkness with light; to tear down strongholds; to demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God. In light of the victory assured us in the resurrection of Jesus, we engage the world in the power and in the name of Jesus!”*

The apostle Paul’s reminder that our “labor in the Lord is not in vain” brings a sense of purposefulness to our work for God. How can the truth of the resurrection inform your everyday activities? How can the reality of the resurrection keep you from becoming cynical about the world?

CHALLENGE

¹⁶ Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal (2Cor. 4:16-18)

- The apostle Paul experienced many hardships in his walk of faith. These trials would be enough to discourage the most ardent of believers. However, Paul gained perspective by keeping his feet firmly planted and his mind fixed on the eternal. **How might Paul’s wisdom be of encouragement to you as you take the next steps in your walk with God?**