

Exegetical Notes – 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

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1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Verses 50-55

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

- The great truth is proclaimed. God’s people will rise bodily from the grave. But they will not rise in the perishable bodies in which they died. They will have imperishable bodies. The corrupt bodies in which we die cannot live in the kingdom of God.
- This is a MYSTERY. How this happens is not comprehensible. It is unexplainable. We do not know how our bodies are changed from perishable to imperishable at the resurrection. What we know is that we will experience this change. It is certain.
- The change occurs instantaneously. When the trumpet, signaling the return of Jesus Christ blows, the dead in Christ will be changed.
- Paul says that this “MUST” happen. It is ordained of God. It is certain.
- When the dead in Christ are renewed, the words of Hosea 13:14 will come true. Death itself will be defeated.

Verses 56-57

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- It is because we have sinned that we die. So, the sting of death is sin.
- The power of sin is the law because it is the moral law of God that defines sin.
- But Jesus' sacrifice sets those who believe in Him free from both the sting of death and the power of the law.

Verse 58

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, 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.

- Because of this truth, Christians must not be moved from our belief in the resurrection. Jesus has been raised from the dead, and we shall be raised with Him.
- We must devote ourselves to doing the work of God, knowing that our work for Him is not in vain because God is forever faithful!

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