

How to Make Sense of It All: *a sermon delivered by*
senior pastor **Josh Moody**, on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020

Bible text explored: 1 Corinthians 15:50–58

⁵⁰I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵²in 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. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When 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.”^[a]

⁵⁵“O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”^[b]

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

⁵⁸Therefore, 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. [ESV]

^[a] Isaiah 25:8 and ^[b] Hosea 13:14 in their Greek translations

Review and Application

1. How (*verse 50*) can we participate in God’s eternal, spiritual kingdom since we live in dying physical bodies?
“*Carpe diem*” advised Roman poet Horace during the New Testament era: (roughly) “Enjoy yourself while you have the chance.” What does this take on our existence lack? This mystery of purpose for life calls for a previously hidden clue. How (*verse 57*) did the crucified Jesus’ empty tomb provide the “great reveal”?
2. What (*verses 51-53*) will every believer—whether in the grave or still alive—receive when Jesus comes again?
3. What do Paul’s scriptural quotations (*verses 54-55*) show about prophetic anticipation of an answer to this mystery?
4. What “sting” (*verse 56*) brought Jesus’ death and ultimately ours? (See *Romans 5:12*.) What is it that reveals our sin and condemns it?
5. How did contemporary witnesses establish that the resurrection of Jesus is historical fact? (See *1 Corinthians 15:3-7*.)
What confirmation could Paul himself add? (See *1 Corinthians 9:1; 15:8; Acts 9:1-5*.)
6. How (*verse 57*) is God giving us the victory through Jesus? (See *Romans 4:25*.)
Why is it significant that the word *gives* is in the present tense?
So when can you experience resurrection power?
Paul says that this victory (verse 58) should shift the trajectory of our daily living.
7. How should it make us more settled, patient, and purposeful? (See *Psalms 46:10-11*.)
How should it motivate us to work enthusiastically for the Lord both in our work and in our family life?
8. Why can you be sure that your time and effort is not being wasted?
Meditate on the words of 19th century missionary C.T. Studd:
*Only one life, ‘twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.*