
Through the resurrection of Christ, death went from the moment of ultimate destruction to the moment of ultimate transformation.

1 Corinthians 15:45-58 (NLT) - The Scriptures tell us, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.” But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit. ⁴⁶What comes first is the natural body, then the spiritual body comes later. ⁴⁷Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while Christ, the second man, came from heaven. ⁴⁸Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man. ⁴⁹Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man. ⁵⁰What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.

⁵¹But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! ⁵²It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. ⁵³For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. ⁵⁴Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” ⁵⁶For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. ⁵⁷But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.

Study Guide

As we celebrated Easter together last week, we talked about just how dramatically the resurrection of Christ changed everything. We also spoke about how we can draw strength and perseverance from the knowledge that what we do for God will not be useless because it will outlast everything else.

Take a moment to read Matthew 6:19-21. What stands out to you as you read this scripture? What does it mean for you in your day to day life?

Jesus makes the interesting statement at the end of these verses that: “Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.” What he is saying is that the desires of our hearts are a gauge that tell us where our heart is. Whatever I desire, whatever I find myself striving for, planning for, aiming for, is actually where my treasure is. Based on that, as you look at your own desires, where is your treasure? What do you desire?

As Christians we are invited into partnership with God to commit ourselves to work that will outlast death. The challenge is in staying committed to that and making sure that our treasure is with God. How do you ensure that is where your treasure lies? What has helped you in the past with keeping the mission we have been given in the center of your desires?

Take some time to pray for each other that God would help us focus our desires on him and keep us from being drawn away to other things.