

**GONE IS DEATH'S STING
THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST – PART 11
1 CORINTHIANS 15:50-57**

THE VICTORY SONG

1. Death left its **sting** in Christ who **bore it** for all believers (1 Cor. 15:55; 1 Pet. 3:18).
2. The skeptics of all the ages have been **answered** with the **message** of 1 Corinthians 15.
3. The “victory song” of Paul’s has been captured in musical masterpieces as Handel’s **Messiah**.

KEY THOUGHT: Christ has taken the sting from our malignant **enemy**, death, that ends all opportunity for man to **change** his eternal reward (1 Cor. 15:55-57).

I. TREMENDOUS TRANSFORMATION (1 COR. 15:50-53)

- A. Paul reminds the Corinthian Christians that the resurrection body will be **transformed** beyond flesh and blood (1 Cor. 15:50).
 1. The Fall in the Garden imposed the **penalty** for sin that Jesus removed for those that **accept** His work on the cross (Rom. 5:12, 15; 1 Cor. 15:22).
 2. Christ’s own earthly body of flesh and blood had to be **transformed** before He could **return** to the Father (Heb. 2:14-18).
 3. Like the seed that is planted, the resurrection body **continues** its **identity** but is radically transformed (1 Cor. 15:42-44).
- B. What happens to believers who are **alive** when Jesus returns (1 Cor. 15:51)?
 1. Christians who are alive when Jesus comes will not have to **die** in order for their bodies to be **changed** (1 Cor. 15:51).
 2. The Christians who are alive will **meet** Christ in the **air** when He comes (1 Thess. 4:17).
- C. This trumpet **summons** all the Christians to God (1 Cor. 15:53; 1 Thess. 4:16-17).

KEY THOUGHT: The idea that the body is not the **real person** we are to “be in Christ” is emphasized by the “clothe itself” metaphor (1 Cor. 15:53-54).

II. GREAT VICTORY (1 COR. 15:54-56)

- A. At a specific moment when Jesus Christ returns a great victory will be recorded (1 Cor.15:54; Is. 25:6-8).

- B. Death left its sting with Christ for the redeemed believer (1 Cor. 15:55).
 - 1. As a bee leaves its stinger in its victim, Christ bore death's complete sting that we would bear none (Romans 5:17).
 - 2. God's laws are found in Scripture and define God's standards which reveal man's "missing the mark".
 - 3. God's standards apply to everyone. Even those who did not know God's Law were given a conscience that alerts every person to right and wrong (Romans 2:14-15).

KEY THOUGHT: Christians still sin, but their sins are covered by the atoning blood of Jesus (1 John 1:7).

III. MONUMENTAL THANKSGIVING (1 COR. 15:57)

- A. Jesus' sinless life fulfilled the Law, and His death conquered sin (Romans 5:19).

- B. Paul gives thanks to God the Father who will give His redeemed new bodies at the resurrection and who gives us victory over sin and death (1 Cor. 15:57).

KEY THOUGHT: Christ accomplished the atoning work which gives us redemption that we may live in victory every day (Galatians 3:13; 2:20).

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

April 10, 2011

SUNDAY: *Christ has removed the sting from death for the Christian (1 Cor. 15:55)!* This section of chapter 15 is sometimes referred to as Paul's "Victory Song". Paul declares that death has left its sting in Christ who bore it for all believers (1 Pet. 3:18). So overwhelming was the evidence to Paul that he felt it refuted the skeptics of all the ages and answered their questions once and for all. This "Victory Song" of Paul's has been captured in musical masterpieces as Handel's *Messiah*. Death is our arch enemy. Christ has taken the sting from our malignant enemy, death, that ends all opportunity for man to change his eternal reward (1 Cor. 15:55-57). Praise the Father for His great love to send His Son to redeem fallen mankind! Revel in the victory we enjoy because of our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. ***May your heart sense the gravity of the victory that we are privileged to participate in as God's children!***

MONDAY: *The resurrected body will continue its identity but will be radically transformed (1 Cor. 15:42-44)!* Paul reminds the Corinthian Christians that the resurrection body will be transformed beyond flesh and blood (1 Cor. 15:50). The Fall in the Garden imposed the penalty of death for sin. Jesus removed that penalty when we accepted Him as our Lord and Savior (Rom. 15:12, 15). Jesus was the first fruits from the grave of many brethren that will rise when He returns to earth (1 Cor. 15:20, 23). Christ's own earthly body of flesh and blood had to be transformed before He could return to the Father (Heb. 2:14-18). Though the body dies and is planted in the ground, it is like the wheat that maintains its identity but is radically transformed when it is raised (1 Cor. 15:42-44). We do not have to wait until we are resurrected to be radically transformed. God has given us that potential at the moment of conversion. It is one thing to acknowledge theologically that we have been transformed, and it is an entirely different thing to strive to live in a transformed manner. Pray for the vision of what you could be in Christ if you allowed the Holy Spirit to have complete control. ***May this be a revolutionary Easter Season after your thorough study of the resurrection!***

TUESDAY: *Christians who are alive will meet Jesus in the air when He returns (1 Thess. 4:16-17)!* Christians who are alive when Jesus comes will not need to die to be transformed (1 Cor. 15:51). The trumpet will sound summoning God's people like the call in the Old Testament to come into His presence (1 Thess. 4:17; Ex. 19:16). God will gather His remnant to Himself. Make every effort to invite those you know and love to be a part of God's family. You cannot affect their salvation, but you can share your transformed life with your gentle, loving words. Pray for the courage to share the Gospel and the strength to let it be lived through you. ***May others around you recognize that you have been with Jesus (Acts 4:13)!***

WEDNESDAY: *Our soul is who we are to be in Christ (1 Cor. 15:50-53)!* Paul stresses the continuity between our present life and the one to come by using the word "*this*" four different times (1 Cor. 15:53-54). "This" perishable and "this" mortality will be clothed with imperishability and immortality. "*Clothe itself*" is a metaphor that points out that the body is not the real person (1 Cor. 15:53-54). Our concern should be more about the person we are apart from our body. Are we "living" the transformed life that we have been given? The greater concern is not our new resurrected bodies but who we are before we receive them. Ask the Holy

Spirit for help identifying where you are playing games with yourself in your spiritual life? What areas of your life do you need to let the Holy Spirit transform? ***May the examination you undergo become a great source of joy for you if you follow the “doctor’s” orders!***

THURSDAY: ***Death no longer has a sting for the redeemed believer (Rom. 5:17)!*** Paul is celebrating the assured victory realized when Jesus comes again. Isaiah prophesies about the victory when he writes about the banquet the Lord will have for the remnant on the mountaintop. The Lord will remove the death shrouds from those in attendance and swallow up death. He will wipe away all the tears that signal grief that surrounds death (Isa. 25:6-8). Jesus conquered death. Death left its sting with Christ (1 Cor. 15:55). As a bee leaves its stinger in its victim, Christ bore death’s complete sting that we would bear none (Rom. 5:17). God’s laws are found in scripture and define God’s standards which reveal man’s “missing the mark”. God’s standards apply to everyone. Even those that did not know God’s Law were given a conscience that alerts every person to right and wrong (Rom. 2:14-15). Death no longer has a sting for the redeemed believer. Christians still sin, but their sins are covered by the atoning blood of Jesus (1 John 1:7). Rejoice in your salvation and what that means for your eternal future. Contemplate the great love God had for you, and seek to develop a desire for the higher life in God. ***May your reflection on your salvation bring you closer to the Lord God!***

FRIDAY: ***Give praise and thanksgiving to the Father who gave us victory over sin and death (Rom. 5:19)!*** Our Lord God deserves our overwhelming, constant thanks for His provision for His redeemed children. Jesus’ sinless life fulfilled the Law, and His death conquered sin (Rom. 5:19). God views those who are saved as righteous. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to believers. Paul gives thanks to God the Father who will give His redeemed new bodies at the resurrection and who gives us victory over sin and death (1 Cor. 15:57). In light of God’s infinite mercy and grace, how should we live? It seems we should take personal responsibility to live “worthy of this calling” (2 Thess. 1:11). Our lives should be a discernable difference between the life of a Christian and that of an unbeliever. Our greatest expression of thanksgiving is the living of a transformed life. Ask for the Holy Spirit to do His work to set aside actions, thoughts, and words that do not evidence your transformation. ***May the transformation of Christ be evident to every person you meet!***

SATURDAY: ***Our transformed lives are designed to live in victory every day (Gal. 3:13; 2:20)!*** Christ accomplished the atoning work which gave us redemption that we may live in victory every day (Gal. 3:13). “Redeemed” most often means to be purchased off the auction block of slavery and to be set free. Christians were freed from the penalty and debt of sin by Jesus’ substitutionary death on the cross. God satisfied His justice by exhausting His wrath against Jesus for sin on behalf of all who would be sovereignly redeemed. We were purchased for the slavery of sin. When a person trusts in Christ for salvation, he spiritually participates with the Lord in His crucifixion and His victory over sin and death (2:20). The believer’s old self is dead having been crucified with Jesus (Rom. 6:3, 5). The Christian has the power of Christ dwelling inside of Him (8:9-10). Now we are to live for Jesus in appreciation for all that has been done for us. What specific changes should you immediately make to live more clearly for Jesus? Are your days spent, not serving yourself, but serving the Lord and others? Pray for wisdom and guidance in the decisions you will need to implement. ***May your love for the Lord God usher you into a higher life with Him!***