

Victory Over Death!... The Last Enemy!

1 Corinthians 15:20-58

Part 1v 20-28

Death is not our _____! Death is our _____!

Yes, the Christian should not fear death, and rejoices that we go to be with Jesus when we die. That is our precious hope and assurance in Christ! At the same time, we cannot be cavalier, fake, and pretend that death is _____. We can't pretend that death does not _____ us. We can't pretend that it does not hurt us when a close friend or loved one passes; a child, a mother, father, grandparent, grandchild, spouse, friend, relative... We can't pretend that we do not fear death even the "least little bit". That we are _____, with no second thoughts what's soever. We can't pretend that we don't still have questions and sometimes doubts about what happens after we die. In fact, it is _____ to think of death as our enemy. It is _____ not to think of death as our enemy. Death came into the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sinned. Both spiritual and Physical death entered the world when man fell. God did not want us to know spiritual or physical death, but we chose to disobey him, and all have the nature of Adam. We have all inherited Adam's sinful nature, so we all eventually die. Romans 5:8-21, Genesis 3:15, Every culture throughout history has battled this enemy death.

There are countless variations of religions and cultural understandings about death and what happens after we die. Archaeologists, historians, sociologists, physicians, theologians, and many other "experts" have studied death and pondered what happens to a human after they take their last breath and last heartbeat. There are also countless variations of beliefs from we simply die and go back into the earth and become soil, to becoming spirits haunting the earth, to reincarnation as another life form, becoming an angel, or demon, living in another dimension, resurrecting in your same body, a new body, facing judgment, living on another planet, not facing any judgment, to facing judgement.... and this does not even begin to explain what the afterlife is like; heaven, hell, a paradise full of 70 virgins, hunting and fishing for ever, sports, golden cities, mansions, banquets and endless food and drink, gardens, and on and on... in fact recently there are movies and books galore about people who have died and come back to life either for just a few minutes or a few days, and what they experienced. Thank goodness I will not attempt to explain in this message in detail what happens after we die, what Heaven and Hell is like where will we live what will we do what will our bodies be like etc. Yes, the Bible does tell us some of these things, but many things are left out, and so we are left to speculate about certain aspects of the afterlife and will have to live by _____. In this part of Corinthians however, Paul tells us enough to give us a glimpse of what will come and a tremendous hope that our natural enemy death will finally be defeated. So, we may have some doubts and sometimes even fear, but never despair, hopelessness or terror of death.... if we are a _____, John3:16 trusting in the _____, for the _____. Hebrews 6:9 In 1 Corinthians 15:Verses 1-19 Paul assures the Corinthians that Jesus was literally bodily resurrected, and we will be resurrected someday. That alone should give us hope, but he goes on in verses 20-58 to explain in more detail what happens to us after we die, how everything ties into the resurrection of Jesus and ultimately how this proves our enemy death will be defeated once and for all.

V 20-28; Jesus leads the way! Then those in Christ will _____ He was the _____! Leviticus 23:10 the Israelites were to give their “first fruits” to God as an offering as part of their forgiveness for sins. The resurrection of Jesus was the first and most important offering for all mankind.

Then those who are “in Christ” who have died will resurrect when Jesus returns! 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 some theologians teach there are 5 distinct resurrections. page 418

1. resurrection of those who have died from Pentecost to the rapture: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

2. resurrection of the tribulation Saints: Revelation 7:9-17

3. resurrection of the Old Testament Saints Daniel 12:2, Isaiah 26: 19-20, Luke 16:19-31

4. resurrection of those who die during the battle of millennial kingdom Revelation 20:7-15

5. resurrection of the unsaved to judgment and lake of fire and second death John 5:29, Revelation 21:1-9,

This is part of God’s plan due to the fall of Adam v22 _____! We are “cursed” and defeated by our enemy death and the Devil no matter what we do. Genesis 3:15 describes that from the moment Adam and Eve fell there would be a constant battle between them and their offspring us, and Satan. Ephesians 2:2, He is the prince of the power of the air 6:12 Therefore, in our own strength we are no match for him and have always been defeated and always suffer physical and spiritual death, Romans 3:23 until Jesus wins the battle for us! No good works, no religion nothing can save us from this enemy except the work of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection. Romans 5:8-21 The physical resurrection of the dead who are redeemed and live forever with the person Jesus who saved them is the ultimate defeat of Satan and the ultimate repudiation of the curse that plagues mankind.

That is why v 25-28 in Corinthians are so awe inspiring and give us power and hope. The last enemy death is defeated and destroyed not by us but by our Savior who loves us so much! Let’s pray this Prayer! _____! ***Thank you, Jesus! I love you, and because of you I am no longer afraid of my enemy death. I pledge to live for you and serve you and serve other people as long as you give me breath until you finally choose to take me home to be with you. Amen!***

Also, this is just one more reason it is so wrong for you to think of taking your own life. It is not yours to take. It is the precious gift of God given to you that Jesus loved you so much He died so you can live. It is up to Him when He will take you home. So, work hard and celebrate life no matter how difficult it may be and our victory over death! Amen

Answers: friend, enemy, no big deal, hurt, ready to go, natural, unnatural, faith, born again child of God, death and resurrection of Jesus, forgiveness of our sins, follow, first fruits, all die, Jesus