

**Message #70****I Corinthians 15:50-58**

Chapter 15 of I Corinthians gives us a unique perspective of time. It is a chapter that tells every one of us that soon time will run out. Sooner or later, our existence in this life will end and then we will be in eternity and what we did “with” and “for” Jesus Christ will stand forever.

- 1) We will leave this planet.
- 2) We will receive a new body.
- 3) We should abound in the work of God.

**BECAUSE OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US IN THE FUTURE, WE SHOULD DILIGENTLY WORK FOR JESUS CHRIST IN THE PRESENT.**

**REALIZATION #1** – Our present bodies cannot inherit God’s future kingdom. **15:50**

Take a good clear look at this verse and note the word “cannot.” That word means that our present bodies have no ability, no capability and no power to obtain eternity.

Something that is “perishable,” which literally refers to a body that is capable of decay, IS NOT capable of going to some place that is “imperishable,” a place where nothing can decay.

**REALIZATION #2** – Our present bodies will be changed so we can inherit God’s future kingdom. **15:51-53**

The pronoun “we” refers to those classified as “brethren” (**15:50**), those who have believed on Christ. Not everyone will be changed so they can live with God in His kingdom, but the “brethren” will be changed.

The word “change” is a word which means to transform or to exchange one thing for another.

**Event #1** - By means of the resurrection after death. **15:42, 51a**

One way to get a new body is to die and then be raised from the dead with a new glorious body. This is exactly why death is called for the believer “sleep.” The perishable body is laid to rest for a while until it will be raised a new imperishable body.

**Event #2** - By means of the Rapture during life. **15:51-52**

There is another “mysterious” way that a believer can receive a new body. When the “in Christ” (15:18) resurrection occurs, there will be believers on earth, who will not have died. In fact, at the time Paul wrote, he believed that he would be one of them, “the dead” contrasted with “we” (**15:52b**).

Simply stated, another way to get a new imperishable body is to be alive when the “in Christ” resurrection occurs and be raptured. Paul, in **verse 51**, makes it very clear that not all believers will die, but “all” will receive a transformed body capable of inheriting God’s future.

**(Fact #1)** - The transformation will occur in a very small moment. **15:52a**

In fact, the word “moment” is the Greek word “atomos,” from which we get our English word “atom,” which refers to the smallest particle that can be conceived to exist.

**(Fact #2)** - The transformation will occur with great speed. **15:52b**

The prepositional phrase “in the twinkling of an eye” refers to speed that is faster than the blink of an eye. The twinkle refers to rapid eye movement, which is quicker than a blink.

**(Fact #3)** - The transformation will occur with authoritative sound. **15:52c**

The words “last trumpet” refer to the last trumpet for the “in Christ” Church Age (15:18, 22). This trumpet signals the end of the age.

**(Fact #4)** - The transformation will occur in specific order. **15:52d**

- 1) The trumpet will sound .
- 2) The dead believer shall be raised with their new imperishable bodies.
- 3) The living believer shall be transformed and raptured.

The information here coincides perfectly with I Thess. 4:16-18.

**Verse 53** makes it clear that this transformation is a “must” if one is going to live with God.

**REALIZATION #3** – Our transformed bodies will mean death has been conquered. **15:54-57**

The word “victory,” which shows up three times in these four verses (**15:54, 55, 57**), is one that speaks of conquering something and prevailing over it. In fact, Paul was so confident of this reality that in **verse 55** he mocks death.

1) Sin is what causes death. **15:56a**

Death was a penalty for sin and when Adam sinned, we all received the death penalty (Gen. 2:17 / Rom. 5:12, 17).

2) The Law is what establishes sin. **15:56b**

The Law of God shows every person that he is guilty before God (Rom. 3:19-20) and shows that everyone deserves the wrath of God (Rom. 4:15).

3) Christ conquered both the Law and sin. **15:57**

Christ conquered sin (Romans 6), Christ conquered the Law (Romans 7) and Christ conquered death (Romans 8).

Jesus Christ is the ONLY person who can make us victorious in God's sight.

**REALIZATION #4** – Our present life should be totally focused on the work of the Lord.  
**15:58**

The “therefore” is connecting us back to everything God has done for us and promises to do for us.

**Reaction #1** - We should be steadfast. **15:58a**

We should be standing firm in our Christian commitment, character and doctrine.

**Reaction #2** - We should be immovable. **15:58b**

We should be very focused and very stable people.

**Reaction #3** - We should be workers. **15:58c**

The word “toil” suggests hard, toilsome work in the context of the N.T. church.

The thing we clearly see is that no “in the Lord” labor is empty or vain.

The thought of our death, the thought of a resurrection, the thought of the Rapture and transformation of our body should motivate each of us to faithful service for God