

The Biblical Motivation for Faithfulness

I Corinthians 15.51-58

I Corinthians 15

- Is the “resurrection chapter”
- Paul talks about the reality of the death and resurrection of Christ
- And the importance of that death and resurrection (15.12-20)
- And the nature of the resurrection (15.21-49)
- And this fact—mortal bodies can’t get the kingdom (cf. 15.24)

Since that is true....

- There must be a change (exchange).
15.51
- It will be instantaneous. 15.52
 - In a moment (atom)
 - In the blinking of the eye
- All believers will be changed. 15.51-52

The change will be...

- That which perishes will be traded for that which does not perish 15.53
- And that which is mortal must put on that which is immortality

When that happens...

- OT promises are fulfilled
- Isa 25:8 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it
- Hos 13:14 I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.

How does that happen?

- God give us the victory through Christ, 15.57
- It is sin that stings us and poisons us to death
- And the Law is the power of sin. The rigid, yet righteous, demands of the Law are what makes sin so strong

What does this mean for us now?

- 15.58
- Be firm and fixed in place
- At all times (always)
- Abounding (overflowing, with some to spare)
- In the work of the Lord
- We know our labor (effort, toil, struggle)
- Is not in vain