

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are in bold. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

1 Corinthians 15:50–58 (ESV)

50 I tell you this, brothers:
 flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God,
 nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

51 Behold! I tell you a mystery.
 We shall not all sleep,
 but we shall all be changed,

52 in a moment,
 in the twinkling of an eye,
 at the last trumpet.
 For the trumpet will sound,
 and the dead will be raised imperishable,
 and we shall be changed.

53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable,
 and this mortal body must put on immortality.

54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable,
 and the mortal puts on immortality,
 then shall come to pass the saying that is
 written:
 “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

55 “O death, where is your victory?
 O death, where is your sting?”

56 The sting of death is sin,
 and the power of sin is the
 law.

57 But thanks be to God,
 who gives us the victory
 through our Lord
 Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brothers,
 be steadfast,
 immovable,

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always abounding
in the work of the Lord,
knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. How does Paul sum up the importance of the reality of a future physical resurrection?
2. Is “the kingdom of God” that Paul mentions in v 50 something to come or something present in this context? How do you know?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. Galatians 5:21. Ephesians 5:5. What do these passages contribute to understanding what the kingdom of God is and when it will be inherited?
4. Why is a future physical resurrection necessary according to verse 50?
5. When Paul indicates that “flesh and blood” cannot inherit the kingdom of God, does he mean the future kingdom of God will not be any kind of physical existence? Why or why not?
6. What is the “mystery” that Paul reveals in verses 51-52?

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7. Why would the content of verses 51-52 be a “mystery?”

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 again.

8. When will this transformation (15:51-54) take place? What are the phrases that reveal the timing?
9. What does Paul mean by the “last trumpet?” Is it the last trumpet in a series of trumpets blown or a trumpet that marks the end? How would you know?
10. Read Matthew 24:31 and John 5:25. How are these verses similar and different to what we read in 1 Corinthians 15:52?
11. Paul indicates in 1 Corinthians 15:52 that the dead will be raised and “we shall be changed.” Does he assume all believers will be dead and resurrected? If not, why does he speak of “those who sleep” and “we will all be changed” (15:51)? Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. How would this help understand what Paul is speaking of here?

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12. What is the first word of verse 53? What is it indicating and why is it significant?

13. According to what you read in verses 54 and 55, what is one of the most significant things to happen when our physical bodies become eternal physical bodies?

14. Consider again when this taunt of death (found in 15:54-55) will happen. Read 15:25-26 – when will this final victory over death occur?

❖ Day 3

Read [the passage] again.

15. Aside from alleviating the pain that comes from death, what else is so very significant when death ends, according to verse 56?

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16. How would you describe Paul's response, as described in verse 57, to the glorious truth of verse 56? In other words, how should we respond to the powerful implications of being resurrected from the dead at the coming of Christ?

17. How often do you find yourself intentionally thinking about what the resurrection of Jesus has accomplished for you? What tends to distract us from meditating on this truth and responding as Paul does?

18. Read 15:58 and list why Paul has written this chapter. What are the primary effects believing in a future physical resurrection of those who believe in Christ will and should have on believers until that time?

19. Who do you need to encourage with these truths? Why do they need this encouragement?

20. How does this passage bring encouragement to you personally? Has there been any ways you have been serving the Lord that have appeared to be empty or without effect? How could this passage help you?

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21. Many people struggle with increased discouragement and depression during the Christmas season. How could this resurrection chapter be a help to them?

22. How would you use the truth of this passage in encouraging a non-Christian to consider Christianity?

In preparation for Sunday, pray for continue understanding, clarity as the word is taught, and spiritual insight for Christians and non-Christians alike.