

A FABULOUS FUTURE

The hope the resurrection provides—1Cor 15:50-57

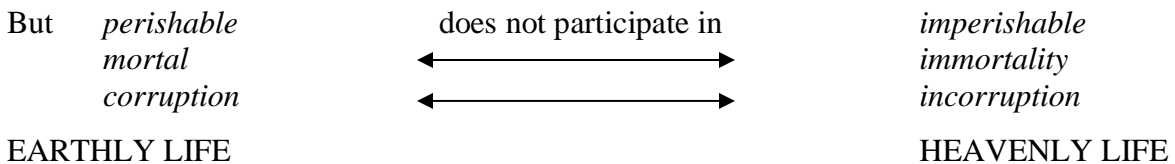
WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—⁵²in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” ⁵⁵“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 (1Cor 15:50-57)

Three reasons why:

- **TRANSFORMATION IS OUR DESTINY** (50-53) Believers will be CHANGED

50—*flesh and blood* = our physical bodies as they are now constituted



Something must be done to make our bodies fit for immortality. We must be changed...

51—*Listen!*

mystery

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. (1John 3:2)

52—*moment*

twinkling of an eye

at the last trumpet

53—

- **CELEBRATION IS OUR CERTAINTY** (54-56) Death will be ABOLISHED

54—the fulfilment of Is 25:8 “*for all time*” = “*victory*”

55—death is addressed as a defeated foe (Hosea 13:14)

The heel of the woman’s offspring—Christ—will crush the serpent’s head (Gen 3:15)

56—If there were no law, there’d be no sin (Rom 4:15)
 If there were no sin, there’d be no death (Rom 6:23)

• **ADORATION IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY** (57)

God should be PRAISED

thanks be to God

he gives us the victory

Past—

Present—

Future—

through Christ Jesus

Hope is not a desperate holding on to a faded dream, a dead hope, but a living one, founded on reality, for it is grounded in “the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” It is this reality which will enable the readers to face even death without fear, for death is not an end, but a beginning. (Peter Davids, *The First Epistle of Peter*)

As a five-year-old on Easter Sunday I had learned the harsh lesson of irreversibility. Now, as an adult, I saw that Easter actually held out the awesome promise of reversibility. Nothing—no, not even death—was final. Even that could be reversed. (Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*)

Crown Him with Many Crowns (v. 3)

Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o’er the grave	→	(ALREADY)
Who rose victorious to the strife for those He came to save		
His glories NOW we sing, who died and rose on high		
Who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die	→	(NOT YET)

HOLY SONNET #10: DEATH, BE NOT PROUD—John Donne

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
 Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;
 For those whom thou think’st thou dost overthrow
 Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.
 From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,
 Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,
 And soonest our best men with thee do go,

Rest of their bones, and soul’s delivery.
 Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,
 And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,
 And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well
 And better than thy stroke; why swell’st thou then?
 One short sleep past, we wake eternally
 And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.