

LIVINGHOPE  
BIBLE CHURCH

# 16 | 1 CORINTHIANS 15

## THE DAY DEATH DIED

*Jesus died that we may live to the fullest for his glory!*

### Outline

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### Call to Worship

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,<sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"<sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." —John 11:25-27

### Songs

*Living Hope*

*King of kings / He is Lord*

*Up from the Grave He Arose*

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

*Christ Our Hope in Life and Death*

## Announcements

**WELCOME:** We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet if you are visiting with us.

**GIVING:** You can give over Zelle through your bank with no fees (use secretary@livinghopechurch.net). We also have a collection box on the Welcome Center. Malachi 3, “Test me in this” Proverbs: “**Give of your firstfruits.**” We believe blessing comes by putting God first.

## Introduction

We are looking at the victory that the Lord Jesus Christ has won over death. The title of our Bible study is “The Day Death Died.”

This morning we come to the most important event in human history. Many people are in churches today because of a religious observance. That is not why we are here today. We are here today not because of a church or a religion. We are here because we can all testify that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. He is risen indeed. You can go and visit the tombs of **Buddha and Mohammed and Confucius**. Their bodies are still there. Christ’s tomb is empty. He is alive! He is not here—he is risen! His life is so very important to you and me today at this very moment. If you will listen carefully to what the Lord Jesus says to you and me, it will absolutely change your life.

Death is coming, but it has no power over the Christian. **Jesus came to earth to put death to death.** Death is an enemy to be dealt with, and with every tick of your watch, somewhere on planet earth, a soul dies. **166,000 people die every day. That’s two people every second. People are dying.** Ten out of ten people die. All around people are dying; and yet, we don’t want to think about death. We don’t want to face death. You mention death and people will change the subject like they’re switching channels on television. People die suddenly, instantaneously, and in strange ways. Wasn’t it Mark Twain who said, “**Life is a losing proposition—you’ll never get out of it alive**”? He was wrong—he was very wrong. In fact, this message is set to prove that he was absolutely, totally, and completely wrong. **Christ came to bring us to eternal life.**

There are three things I want us to see in our passage. I want you to see the **majesty** of our Redeemer. I want you to see the **mystery** of our resurrection. And then, I want you to see the **ministry** of the redeemed.

**Key Thought:** When Jesus died, death died for all who trust in him. Jesus put death to death on the cross, and the resurrection proves it.

We see the glory of the resurrection in the majesty and beauty of our Redeemer. His character is perfect. His attributes are infinite. His love is everlasting. His heart and love for you is incalculable. Look to the perfect character of the one who rose from the dead this morning.

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## 1. THE MAJESTY OF OUR REDEEMER (15:1-50)

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Jesus is our sovereign Redeemer. **A redeemer is one who purchases something.** Christ redeemed us from the power of sin and now we belong to him. Jesus is eminently qualified to be our Redeemer. Why is he King? Why is he Lord? He has risen from the dead, and he is Lord. Jesus came out of that grave, and Jesus became the death of death. **He put death to death.** He paid the full price for our sin and defeated death, sin, and hell. Anyone who looks to Christ has all their sin washed away. They are given a perfect standing of righteousness before God. No more condemnation because of the redeeming blood of Christ. Job looked forward to Christ as his Redeemer.

*Job 19:25* | For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.

Let me say that Jesus walked out of that grave. **He did more than survive death.** Are you listening? He **decimated death.** He didn't survive death; He destroyed death. He's given two titles that tell us why Jesus is **eminently qualified to be our Redeemer.** How did he do it? First, he had to become like us.

### THE MAJESTY OF THE PROPHECIES

The entrance of Jesus into history was given to us in the prophecies of the Old Testament. The Hebrew Bible clearly said that **Jesus would be born, he would live a perfect life and he would die for our sins.** And then on **the third day he would rise.**

*1 Corinthians 15:3-4* | For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

From the very beginning, mankind needed a Savior. In Genesis 3:15, we find that Adam had plummeted us into sin, and they were there hiding from God! They were running away from his presence. Before they sinned, they loved walking with God in the garden in the cool of the day. But the guilt and shame of their own sin overtook them, and they hid. "Adam, where are you?" God called. Adam said, "I heard your voice and was afraid." God at that moment gave them a promise of a Savior.

*Genesis 3:15* | The Seed of the woman will one day crush the head of the serpent.

*Isaiah 53:5-6* | He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup>All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

*Hosea 6:2* | After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.

What does the New Testament call us to do? To believe what delivered to us from the Hebrew Scriptures!

*Romans 10:9* | If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Christ suffered and died on the cross. Everything was prophesied. There were hundreds of prophecies fulfilled in the humble birth, perfect life, substitutionary death, and glorious resurrection. He did it all for you!

### THE MAJESTY OF HIS ENTRANCE INTO HISTORY

This isn't some fairy tale. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not a made-up story. Christ being raised from the dead is not theoretical. The **resurrection of Christ is historical**. Jesus entered into history and conquered death. When he came out of the grave, he changed the world. He changed history. Even **our calendar is now divided by his birth**, and history is changed by his death and resurrection. When Paul speaks of the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15, this isn't some theoretical idea. He refers to the resurrection is an historical event. **He is sovereign over death, hell, and the grave!** And it all happened in real time. Paul calls on hundreds of eyewitnesses as he makes his case. Listen to him speak of those who were eyewitnesses of the majesty of his resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:5-9 | And that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Now, what the Apostle Paul is saying is, "Look, this is **actual history**. This is not some made up account. We saw him. **This is an eyewitness account.**" It's not just the apostles. There were **500 witnesses** at one time, and some of these who saw him are **walking on the streets of Corinth**. You can go out and **interview them**. They are spread throughout the world.

The nature of the resurrection makes it **impossible to convince over five hundred people to all tell a lie** at the same time, throughout their lives, especially since the **death penalty** was hanging over many of them for believing and preaching that Jesus is Lord. Not one of the cracked. We have not even one record of one of those witnesses breaking. Even secular scholars have said, this is **the best credible evidence**, eyewitness testimony, that you could enter into a court of law.

Don't you think these early witnesses—some of them who lived for 40 years after that—would have told the truth in order to save their own skins? And they did tell the truth! **Jesus Christ has risen from the dead**. It's no lie. Over five hundred people were eyewitnesses of the resurrection of Jesus while he was on earth teaching for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. **These witnesses smiled at death**, because they knew that Jesus Christ had walked out of that grave. So many were put to death, but they were not afraid! They were eyewitnesses and testified that **Jesus had conquered death**.

This is our resurrected Savior that we've just sung about. When Jesus died, he put death to death. Death could not hold him. The grave could not keep him. He's alive saints! **See the majesty of his entrance into history. He was born, lived, died, and rose from the grave.** The Son of God was a real, living, breathing historical person. This is not some fairy tale. Jesus Christ came into history and conquered death.

### THE MAJESTY OF HIS VICTORY

When Jesus walked out of the grave, **he demonstrated a victory that had been foretold in the annual Festival of the Firstfruits in Israel.** Jesus is the firstfruits of all who will be raised from the dead to eternal life.

1 Corinthians 15:20, 22-23 | Christ has been raised from the dead, **the firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep...<sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

The firstfruits of the harvest is the best part. When I lived in Louisiana, I enjoyed the strawberry harvest around this time every April. We celebrated the firstfruits with the famous **Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival**. Those first strawberries are as big as a child's fist.

The firstfruits in Israel were also the first portions of the harvest, and they were given as offerings to God (Lev 23:15–17). **The firstfruits indicated that the entire harvest was soon to follow.**<sup>1</sup> Israel also had their own harvest festival called the Festival of the Firstfruits in Israel. The Jews would take that sheaf of grain, and they would wave it before the Lord and then put it on the altar. What it was, was thanksgiving to God and an act of faith, saying, “Lord, **this typifies the great harvest that's about to come it.**” The ultimate harvest is the harvest of souls that will come to Christ and follow him in resurrection when he comes again.

Jesus is our firstfruits. Jesus was crucified on the Passover and was buried before the Sabbath. Then on Sunday morning, as the sun rose in the sky, Jesus rose from the dead. What true a Firstfruits Festival!

There is now a harvest of people, and they are being raised from the dead. Jesus is the firstfruits of that harvest. There will be a final firstfruits, when the dead in Christ will be raised from the dead. **When Jesus comes again**, we're going to celebrate the ultimate harvest, of which the Lord Jesus Christ is the firstfruits. We will have a body like unto his glorious body.

**You are that harvest that Jesus is looking forward to.** He was the firstfruits. Listen if you know Christ, you have something to look forward to. But if you don't know Christ there is another harvest. The angel of death will bring his sickle and take down those who are left behind at Christ's coming. If you don't know Christ, your future is judgment in the lake of fire. They burn the chaff in the fire. Come to Christ today and be his harvest of love and righteousness.

### THE MAJESTY OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY

In verse 21, we see that **Adam**, the first man, **was given the responsibility** to represent the entire human race, and **he blew it**. Adam sinned against God, and as the

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<sup>1</sup> Richard L. Pratt Jr, *I & II Corinthians*, vol. 7, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000), 263.

representative head of the human race, **threw us all into condemnation**. Now, we all are born with a sinful nature that leads inevitably to death and then to eternal suffering. But **Christ was given the same responsibility**, and he fulfilled it perfectly so that all who trust in him shall be forgiven and **raised from the dead at his coming**.

1 Corinthians 15:21-24 | For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

What we have is a reference to the **historical Adam**. This is important, because in history, Adam sins and brings the whole human race into **condemnation**. He fails. But **Jesus Christ keeps the law perfectly**, and so has the authority to save all who trust in him. All who die in Christ will be raised from the dead at his coming.

If you deny the historicity of the first man Adam and say we came through evolution, then Jesus Christ is incorrect and no longer without sin. That would mean we have no Savior, and therefore no salvation. But Jesus Christ is never wrong. **Our Savior cites a historical Adam**. Death came through Adam. Adam gave the human race defeat and depravity. All the brokenness in the world came through his transgression. So, Paul says, “in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive (21:22).

Jesus had a responsibility when he came to earth, and he perfectly fulfilled his duty. **Adam sinned, but Jesus kept the law perfectly on our behalf**. Both Adam and Jesus had the ability not to sin. **Adam chose to sin, and Jesus was perfect**. Therefore, all who trust in Christ will be raised, just as Jesus was raised from the dead!

By one man death came into the world, and also by one man, **Jesus Christ, came eternal life and the resurrection from the dead!** Adam brought death. Jesus brought life. Hallelujah!

## THE MAJESTY OF HIS HUMANITY

Jesus is called the “last Adam” because in order to defeat death, **he had to become one of us**. And he brings to us **a new humanity through the Spirit**.

Consider the majesty of Jesus. He left the Father’s throne above, and he became a human being. Adam had messed it up and brought condemnation to us all. Listen to how the apostle Paul explains it.

**Jesus’ purpose in coming** as a man is to redeem humanity and give us what Adam could not give us: eternal life. The first Adam gave all men death. But the last man gave us the new birth through the life of the Holy Spirit. Through Jesus Christ, there is now a new humanity—a new race of people who have been sanctified by his life-giving Spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:45-47 | Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.

**Jesus came to redeem man** and to take him out of his coffin and give mankind life. When **Adam** was put in the garden, **he brought mankind low**. When the first man transgressed, he had no solution of himself for redemption. The first man is from earth:

weak, powerless, in need of a Savior. The last Adam (Jesus Christ) has come from heaven to save us from our sin.

Jesus Christ, in all his glory and honor set aside his position and humbled himself, emptied himself. Adam, **the first man**, from whom came the natural race, originated on the earth, in fact was created directly **from the earth** (Gen. 2:7). In every way he was **earthy**. **All he gave to us is a fallen, sinful nature with a destiny under the earth in the lake of fire.**

Christ is called **the second man because he has produced a new spiritual race**. And Christ, existing from eternity past, became a human being. He lived on earth in a natural body, but he came **from heaven** as God in human flesh. Adam was tied to earth and can only give us death and condemnation. Christ came from heaven and gives all who come to him **eternal life** in heaven.<sup>2</sup>

### THE MAJESTY OF HIS CONFORMITY

Look at Jesus' power. He can accomplish what he came to do. He came that all who trust in him would be transformed and **"bear the image of the man from heaven"** (15:49). The goal of Jesus' resurrection was to transform us into the conformity of his own image.

1 Corinthians 15:48-50 | As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, **we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.** <sup>50</sup> I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Now, in the first man, we all fell; in the second man, we are all redeemed. This reminds me of **the Matterhorn Mountain incident in Switzerland**.

There were two guides and two tourists. The group was going up the steep icy slope, all tied together. The first guide put his foot down on the ice, and he slipped and swung over the side, and dragged the whole group down with him. The second guide felt the tug on the rope, and he knew what was happening. So he dug his cleats in, put his pickax into the ice, bulged his muscles, and held for all he could hold. The other three men were dangling, but they finally got their feet back on and recovered because of the second guide who held them and kept them from toppling down the great mountain. All four of them were able to scale the mountain together. Now **that first man who slipped was Adam**, but **that last man who held was Jesus**. We're all tied together. Thank God for that second man, the last Adam, our Lord Jesus Christ, who conquered death for us.

**What majesty** that the Lord would leave his throne, put on human flesh, and **redeem** us! Now consider the mystery of Jesus' resurrection.

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## 2. THE MYSTERY OF THE RESURRECTION (15:51-53)

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We come to the benefit of Christ's resurrection. Because Christ was raised, so **we shall all be raised one day from death**. Christ is coming again to resurrect us from our

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<sup>2</sup> John F. MacArthur Jr., *1 Corinthians*, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1984), 439.

graves. Those in Christ are alive will also be raised at his second coming. All the Old Testament saints believed in the fact of the resurrection, but how it would happen was a mystery until Paul reveals it here in 1 Corinthians 15.

## THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST'S COMING

1 Corinthians 15:51 | Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.

Now, notice what he says: “Behold! I tell you a mystery” (15:51). Now, how does that sentence begin? “*Behold.*” It means, “Pay attention.” Are you paying attention? The Apostle Paul is telling you to pay attention: “Behold! I tell you a mystery” (15:51). Now, why does he call it a *mystery*? Well, it’s a sacred secret. **A mystery in the Bible is something that you could not figure out yourself.** In the New Testament **mystery** always refers to that which had before been hidden and unknown, but which is now revealed.<sup>3</sup>

It’s like **going to a car show, and you see the form of the car under a cover**, but exactly what’s under the cover has not yet been revealed. When it comes to how the resurrection of our bodies plays out, it was a mystery until Paul takes the cover off here in 1 Corinthians. Up until now it was hidden, but now Paul will reveal the glory of our resurrection by **divine revelation**.

Now the secret is out. And, what is the secret? Not everyone on earth is going to die. Like Enoch who walked with God, we are going to be transformed and transported in an instant. The trumpet will sound! The believers who died will be raised. And those living will be changed in a moment!

There will be a generation (perhaps this generation) where **millions of believers** upon this earth will one day meet Christ in the air without dying. At the same time those who know the Lord Jesus Christ, who sleep in the grave, will be raised up.

This the **resurrection of the saints**. **Some people call this the rapture**. The word “rapture” comes from a Latin word which means, “to transport something from one place to another.” **Oh, the joy to be transported** from this broken world to the bliss of perfection in Christ in **one moment**.

**All Christians believe in the rapture**, but we may disagree on the timing of the event. Some believe **the rapture and the second coming occur at the same time**. That’s what I believe. Others have other timelines for the rapture. **We have to be humble about the timing of Christ’s coming**. No man knows the day or the hour (Mt 24:36)! And I’m willing to change my position mid-air!

But here is the truth of the matter, Christ is coming again, and he could come at any moment. **The next event on the prophetic calendar is our resurrection when we meet the Lord in the air**. I can’t wait! It’s all possible because of Christ’s resurrection.

Here’s the truth: one day—perhaps today, perhaps today—**billions of believers** are going to be transported from this earth and meet the Lord in the air. We’ll be changed, transformed in a moment, and the dead saints will be raised from the grave. There is going to be a resurrection. There’s going to be celebration and joy for all who know Christ, but everlasting sorrow and judgment for those who do not know Christ.

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<sup>3</sup> John F. MacArthur Jr., *1 Corinthians*, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1984), 443.



## THE TIMING OF CHRIST'S COMING

**My family is a musical family. We all love music.** I love worship music. My wife loves southern gospel type music. We are getting ready to go see the Collingsworth family who have a mixture of worship and southern gospel music. I can't wait! We have our favorite hymns and songs. But **there is one musical interlude that we are waiting to hear.** We are looking forward to hearing **the last trumpet.** I don't even know what that will sound like, but when we hear it, every eye shall see Christ in the sky. There will be no more time. Christ will come, and that will be the end. I can't wait until that day comes. It could be today. Listen to how Paul the apostle describes it.

**1 Corinthians 15:52** | 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.

Now, when is our resurrection going to take place? When? Well, I don't know, but let me tell you something: he says it's going to take place "*in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye*" (1 Cor 15:52). That means the second coming of Christ will happen suddenly. It will happen instantaneously. I can't wait, what about you?

**Matthew 24:30, 36** | They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>36</sup> "But concerning that day and hour no one knows..."

You say, "Aren't we living in the last days?" Yes, we are! The last days began at Pentecost. The apostle John told us we are already living in the last days.

**1 John 2:18** | Little children, it is the last time.

John said that 2000 years ago. No one can know the timing of the second coming, but **we know it is imminent.** That means like the early Christians, we should be **looking for Jesus to come at any moment.** This is the way the apostles lived and taught. At any moment, Christ could come.

**Philippians 3:20** | Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Those early Christians 2000 years ago were waiting for Jesus. Our gaze must ever be set to heaven, looking for the return of the one who rose from the dead.

**Titus 2:13** | Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Dear saints, what am I saying? I am saying that Jesus may come before I finish this message. All Christians have always had this hope. Since Jesus rose from the dead, we have been in the last days. Now, we have an idea **we're living in the last part of the last days.** We're now 2000 years closer to the second coming of Jesus than they were in Paul's day. But, I'm telling you, from the time that he ascended to the right hand of the Father, people were remembering the message of those angels. Remember what they said?

*Acts 1:11* | Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.

So, we are watching and waiting for the Lord Jesus Christ to come, and he may come at any moment.

*Luke 21:28* | Look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.

When Jesus comes again, we are going to enjoy the full power of the resurrection of Christ. Right now, the power of the resurrection **transforms us into Christ's image** in our hearts (Rom 8:29). But there's coming a day, the day of his return, when we will receive new bodies. Our outer shell will be transformed. Mortality will put on immortality.

When Jesus comes again, our whole nature and body will be changed. Our body will no longer be wasting away. Old age will cease. Death will cease. No more doctors!

### THE TRANSFORMATION AT CHRIST'S COMING

*1 Corinthians 15:53* | For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

Listen, the body you are in right now is a temporary tabernacle. It's a worn-out tent. In your body, right now you suffer pain and disease. You and I are so weak that a microscopic organism could kill us at any moment.

When Jesus comes again, the power of the resurrection will fill the whole earth. **Every tear will be wiped away. No more sadness, no more disease. No more funerals or medicine. No more night. No more wars. No more pandemics. No more bad politicians.** Jesus will reign as our king, and there is no competition. **No more elections.** Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. Every knee will bow. You will have a renewed body, and you will **never experience anger, anxiety, despair, or the temptation of foolishness ever again.** You will no longer have a sin nature in your new body. Hallelujah! I can't wait to put on immortality!

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## 3. THE MINISTRY OF THE REDEEMED (15:54-58)

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The third and final thing is the ministry of the redeemed. What does Christ's resurrection mean to us? How does it change us? Well, it gives us a ministry to the world. We have been born again. God is not willing that any should perish. We need to go and preach the gospel to every creature.

The most sobering reality in the world today is that people are dying and going to hell today. Do you believe that? The first ministry that we have to the world is a ministry of

### A MINISTRY OF VICTORY

*1 Corinthians 15:54-57* | 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." <sup>55</sup> "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the

power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, what's he talking about? He's talking about the ultimate statistic. **Ten out of ten people die.** But because of Jesus death is no longer to dominate us. We don't have to be afraid of death. He quotes the book of Hosea. **Death no longer has a sting.** People may die, but death doesn't have the victory. Death is not the gateway to eternal life.

You and I are to be living every day, every moment, serving Christ in the light of that victory. **Jesus Christ has conquered death;** Jesus has been the death of death. So, He takes the pain out of parting, the gloom out of the grave. He takes the strength out of sin and the sting out of death. Jesus's resurrection gives us a hope that is steadfast and sure so that **we can literally mock death,** we can ridicule death, we can laugh at death. Notice what he says: "O death, where is thy sting?" (1 Cor 15:55). The fear of death has ruled people and pushed them to self-medicate with alcohol. Turned them to lust and anything else to take away the dread and looming reality of death.

### ILLUSTRATION: BEE BUZZING

It reminds me of the little girl who was **allergic to bees.** One sting of a bee would take her life in less than an hour. One day she was riding in the car along the highway with her daddy. In the car flew an angry bee with a big stinger. The little girl began to panic. She began to wail.

"**Daddy! A bee! Daddy, I could die.** Daddy, is that bee going to sting me? Oh Daddy, I'm so afraid! She cried and she wailed." The bee buzzed wildly around the car.

The angry bee harassed the father, and as soon as he could cupped that bee in his hand. **He could feel the angry bee hitting the inside of his hand.** He would not stop. And then.... "Ouch!" yelled the father. He felt that stinger in his hand and let the bee go.

The bee flew erratically by that little girl again. She was terrified! "The bee's gonna get me Daddy!"

The father **showed black stinger in his hand to his daughter.** "Sweetheart, that bee cannot hurt you. Soon he'll die. His stinger can't hurt you because I took the stinger for you."

That's what Christ has done. He's taken the sting of death for you. Paul quotes Hosea 13:14...

1 Corinthians 15:55 | O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?

Listen, **the sting of death was taken by Jesus,** and death cannot hurt you. Death may frighten you, but I want to say that Jesus has taken the sting out of death, and Jesus has taken the gloom out of the grave.

And **we may not even see death.** We may be raised together in the clouds with Jesus. The living saints will be translated, and the dead saints will be raised.

We need as the saints of God, to be preaching the power of Jesus' resurrection. He will change our heart and our character, but he will also change our body so that we don't need to be afraid of death.

### A MINISTRY OF STABILITY

1 Corinthians 15:58a | Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable.

We are learning about the power of the resurrection to bring us to this point. Because of the resurrection of Christ, you are to have stability. Be steadfast. Don't get blown around. Stay in there. We're living in a day where everything that's not nailed down is coming loose. People are murdering their children and calling that a legitimate choice. Many Christian churches are afraid to speak about this. Listen murder is still murder. And it's even worse if it's a child that should be protected in the womb.

People are so delusional now they not only think they can change their God-give biological gender, but they shame us because we will not go along with their delusion. We don't believe in the gender blender. God made us male and female, and no surgery can change your biological gender.

People are trying to change what marriage is. Listen, unless it's between a man and a woman, it's not marriage.

Our politics are corrupt. Our schools have become corrupted with the propaganda of the socialist agenda. As Christians, we don't have a Democrat or Republican agenda. We have a Jesus agenda. **Keep your eyes on the coming of Jesus, and that will bring stability in your life.**

No one can snatch you from the hand of Christ or the Father. Don't let anything or anyone rob you of the life of Christ. You are raised. **You are seated with Jesus in the heavenly places.** Be stable. **Real, lasting, eternal joy cannot come from people, emotions, or circumstances.** You must be fully invested in Christ, from whom comes infinite joy. Joyful people are stable people. We are standing on Christ the solid rock! We shall not be moved.

As you are steadfast and immovable, you can point people to Jesus Christ. You can invite people to come out of their caskets and receive life from the empty tomb. Jesus is alive! **Join him in the power of his resurrection.**

## A MINISTRY OF EVANGELISM

1 Corinthians 15:58b | Always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

If you believe that Jesus Christ is coming again, what should you do? **Go to work for Jesus.** Prophecy is great, but prophecy should motivate us to pointing the lost to Jesus Christ. The **great proof that you believe** these things is that **you warn** men and women, boys and girls, to flee from the wrath to come.

There needs to be **fergency**—"always abounding in the work of the Lord." Be joyful in your service and fellowship for Christ.

There also needs to be expectancy—"knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." (1 Cor 15:58)." It pays to serve Jesus. "Some plant, some water, but God gives the increase." Are you letting people know that Jesus is alive? Are you abounding in the work of the Lord? It's not in vain. It's the best work there is.

Jesus is coming again. That's a wonderful thing to remember on Easter Sunday. He's alive. Jesus is risen. And because he's alive, he will come again. He could come at any moment. So **tell the world of Jesus before it is too late.** One day will be the last day. You'll do no more soul-winning after that. Your loved ones need to hear of the love of Jesus from you today. **It's going to be too late, one of these days.**

*Conclusion*

Some of you enjoy the fantastical fiction of C.S. Lewis. In his stories **we read of hobbits and beavers and fauns** and a once beautiful place called Narnia. We hear of home in an allegorical way that reminds us of Scripture's story. Like us, the Narnians live in a world that is broken, having fallen from its original beauty and perfection, but it will one day be restored.

**Humans long for the thaw of winter and the return of the king.** Lewis's point is our point today: because Christ has died and risen from the dead, we have life. We have hope. **The best is yet to come.**

We think about Samwise when he cries out, "O great glory and splendor! And all my wishes have come true!" We are **not in the realm of escapism**, but in the **reality of the gospel**. Because of the resurrection dear saints, **the best is yet to come**. Beyond what you could ever hope for or imagine! When Jesus died, he promised us the end of the long, cold winter of sin. When he died, **he destroyed death by death.**

**Christ is risen from the dead! He is risen indeed!**