

## VICTORY IN JESUS

### 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

(All Scriptures NASB 1995 unless otherwise noted)

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## VICTORY IN JESUS

*“<sup>1</sup> Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures ...” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)*

2

### The Gospel which: (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

**Paul had “preached,” v. 1**  
Acts 18:1-11

**The Corinthians had “received,” v. 2**  
Acts 18:8

**By which they were “saved,” v. 2**  
Romans 1:16

**Which Paul had “received,” v. 3**  
Galatians 1:11-12

3

### The Gospel, based upon 3 facts: (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

**1. “Christ died for our sins,” v. 3**  
Matthew 26:28

**2. He was “buried,” v. 4**  
Matthew 27:57-61

**3. He “was raised on the third day,” v. 4**  
Matthew 16:21; Luke 24:21

**4. “According to the Scriptures...” v. 4**  
(cf. Psalm 16:10)

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### Eyewitness Proof of the Resurrection

*“... <sup>5</sup> and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; <sup>7</sup> then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; <sup>8</sup> and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.”*

(1 Corinthians 15:5-11)

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### Eyewitness Proof of the Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:5-11)

#### Jesus appeared to:

**Cephas (“Peter” cf. John 1:42), v. 5**

**“The twelve,” v. 5**

**More than 500 brethren at one time, v. 6**

**James, and “all the apostles,” v. 7**

**Paul, “last of all,” v. 8**

**Acts 26:16**

6

### Consequences if there is no resurrection:

*“<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. <sup>15</sup> Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; <sup>17</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.” (1 Corinthians 15:12-19)*

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### Consequences if there is no resurrection, then:

**“Not even Christ has been raised,” v. 13 & 16**  
**“Our preaching is vain,” v. 14**  
**Your “faith also is vain,” v. 14**  
**“We are found to be false witnesses,” v. 15**  
**“Your faith is worthless,” v. 17**  
**“You are still in your sins,” v. 17**  
**“Those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished,” v. 18**  
**“We are of all men most to be pitied,” v. 19**  
**“Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die,” v.32**

8

### Consequences of the fact that Jesus was raised:

*“<sup>20</sup> But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His coming, <sup>24</sup> then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy that will be abolished is death.” (1 Corinthians 15:20-26)*

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### Consequences of the fact that Jesus was raised:

**Christ, “the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep,” v. 20**  
**(“First fruits” – Leviticus 23:10)**  
**“As in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive,” v. 22**  
**Jesus is now reigning over His kingdom, vv. 24-25.**

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### Affirmation, There will be a Bodily Resurrection! (1 Corinthians 15:35-49)

**Alluded to a question raised by “foolish” people who asked “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?” v. 35**

**a. Illustration of seed sown into the soil.**

**b. Compared that which is *sown* with that which is raised, v. 42-44**

**Concluded by saying “as we have borne the image of the earthy (“man of dust” ESV), we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.” v. 49**

11

### Examine The Text: (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)

*“<sup>50</sup> Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup> 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 will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about 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. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”*

12

**Examine The Text: (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)**

“Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God,” v. 50.

(cf. 1 Peter 1:3-4; 2 Peter 1:10-11)

We “will all be changed.”

It will occur “at the last trumpet,” v. 52

a. In a “moment”

(Greek *Atomos* = English “to cut”)

b. In “the twinkling of an eye,” v. 52.

The ones affected, v. 52.

13

**Examine The Text: (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)****The Change that will then take place:**

“This perishable must put on the imperishable,” v. 53

“This mortal must put in immortality,” v. 53.

14

**When this happens:**

“Then will come about the saying that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory,’” v. 54

(cf. Isaiah 25:7-8)

The word “*Victory*” occurs only three times in the writings of Paul; all three times are in this section! vv. 54-55, 57

15

**Jesus Provides us “Victory” Over TEMPTATION:**

*“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.” (James 1:13-15)*

*“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)*

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**Jesus Provides us “Victory” Over TEMPTATION:**

*“Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11)*

*“But He answered and said, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”’” (Matthew 4:4)*

*“Jesus said to him, ‘On the other hand, it is written, “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.”’” (Matthew 4:7)*

*“Then Jesus said to him, ‘Go, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.”’” (Matthew 4:10)*

17

**Jesus Provides us “Victory” Over SIN:**

*“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures ...” (1 Corinthians 15:3)*

*“... for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God ...” (Romans 3:23)*

*“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not so short that it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. But **your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God**, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.” (Isaiah 59:1-2)*

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### Jesus Provides us “Victory” Over SIN:

“... for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.” (Matthew 26:28)

“Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

(Acts 2:38)

“... but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:7-9)

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### Jesus Provides us “Victory” Over THE FEAR OF DEATH:

“Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.”

(Hebrews 2:14-15)

“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

(2 Timothy 4:6-8)

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### Jesus Provides us “Victory” Over THE FEAR OF DEATH:

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.” (Philippians 1:21-26)

21

### Jesus Provides us “Victory” Over DEATH:

“But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, ‘DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY.’”

(1 Corinthians 15:54)

22

### Jesus Provides us “Victory” Over DEATH:

#### a. Sin brought death.

“... but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.” (Genesis 2:17)

“By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:19)

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned ...” (Romans 5:12)

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

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### Jesus Provides us “Victory” Over DEATH:

#### b. Death is the great devourer.

“And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment ...” (Hebrews 9:27)

#### c. All graves will be opened.

“Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.” (John 5:28-29)

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### Jesus Provides us “Victory” Over DEATH:

**d. For Christians, death will be  
“swallowed up in victory!”**

*“O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY?  
O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?”*  
**(1 Corinthians 15:55)**

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### Jesus Provides us “Victory” Over HADES:

*“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock  
I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not  
overpower it.” (Matthew 16:18)*

*“Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the  
patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and  
his tomb is with us to this day. And so, because he was a  
prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an  
oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne, he  
looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the  
Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR  
DID HIS FLESH SUFFER DECAY. This Jesus God raised up  
again, to which we are all witnesses.” (Acts 2:29-32)*

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### Jesus Provides us “Victory” Over HADES:

*“When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like  
a dead man. And He placed His right  
hand on me, saying, ‘Do not be afraid;  
I am the first and the last, and the  
living One; and I was dead, and  
behold, I am alive forevermore, and I  
have the keys of death and of Hades.’”*  
**(Revelation 1:17-18)**

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### Application, “Let us ...” 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

**Give “thanks ... to God,” v. 57**

**“Be Steadfast,” v. 58**

**“Immoveable,” v. 58**

**“Always abounding in the work of the Lord,”  
v.58**

#### WHY?

**“Knowing that your toil (“labor” ESV) is not  
in vain in the Lord.” v. 58.**

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### Conclusion:

**Notwithstanding the severity of the times,  
the faithful Christians at Corinth had  
ample reason to rejoice, for they could  
look forward to “Victory in Jesus!”**

**Their reason for hope began with their  
obedience to the Gospel, 15:1-4.**

**Our reason for hope begins with our  
obedience to the Gospel.**

29

### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

#### Hear the Gospel

*“So faith comes from **hearing**, and hearing  
by the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)*

*“It was for this He **called** you through our  
gospel, that you may gain the glory of our  
Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brethren, stand  
firm and hold to the traditions which you  
were taught, whether by word of mouth or  
by letter from us.”*

**(2 Thessalonians 2:14-15)**

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## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

### Believe the Gospel

*“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has **believed** and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.’” (Mark 16:15-16)*

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes** in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16 NKJV)*

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## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

### Repent of sins

*“Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should **repent**, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.” (Acts 17:30-31)*

*“I tell you, no, but unless you **repent**, you will all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3)*

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## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

### Confess faith in Jesus

*“And Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’” (Acts 8:37)*

*“... that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved ...” (Romans 10:9)*

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## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

### Be Baptized for forgiveness of sins

*“Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” (Acts 2:38)*

*“Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.” (Acts 22:16)*

*“And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ ...” (Acts 10:48a)*

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## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

### Always abound in the work of the Lord

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)*

*“Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called ‘Today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, **if we hold fast** the beginning of our assurance firm until the end ...” (Hebrews 3:12-14)*

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