

1 Corinthians 15 (The Resurrection Chapter)

15:1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

Paul is changing direction. He has moved on from Spiritual Gifts and is now going to talk about the resurrection of Christ. He starts by reminding them about the gospel message that he preached while in Corinth. He says that by accepting the gospel message that he preached to them, they have taken a stand with the gospel as their foundation.

Galatians 1:8-9 says, “⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God’s curse! ⁹ As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God’s curse!” Paul had to remind the Galatians and the Corinthians that there is but one Gospel and that is the one he preached to them. This is a message that needs to be preached in many churches today. Paul is saying to the Corinthians and the Galatians, as well as you and I, make sure that the gospel message that you believe is the same one that Paul delivered to you. He ends verse 2 with a warning that if you are following any gospel message other than the one that he taught you then you are wasting your time.

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

Paul lets them know that the gospel that he taught was the one that he received, from Christ, either on the road to Damascus or at a later date. He does a better job of saying this in Galatians 1:12, “*For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.*”

Here in verse 3, Paul gives them that gospel. He says that the gospel message is composed of the following things:

Christ died for our sins.

He was buried.

He was raised on the third day.

He appeared to Peter and the other disciples.

He also appeared to more than 500 others.

He appeared also to His half-brother James and the disciples again.

He appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus.

Paul's gospel message was proven true because the disciples and the more than 500 others had seen Jesus alive. Paul says "If you don't believe me, go and ask them. Some of them are still alive." In verse 8, Paul calls himself "abnormally born" (NIV) or one of "untimely born" (NASB). What do you think Paul is saying? Some think that he may have said it because he missed out on the personal 3 year training course with Jesus. Or others believe that he was speaking about the Corinthians doubt that he was a real apostle, not one of the original 12. At the core of the gospel message is the fact that Jesus was crucified to take away our sins. Paul said at the beginning of his letter to the Corinthians that he only preached one thing, "*Christ crucified.*" 1 Corinthians 2:2.

"However, we never speak of the physical sufferings of Jesus to make us feel sorry for Jesus, as if He needed our pity. Save your pity for those who reject the complete work of Jesus on the cross at Calvary; for those preachers who do not have the heart of Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:23, when he proclaimed the center of the Christian message: we preach Christ crucified." (Guzik)

9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 11 Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

In verse 9, Paul humbles himself. Throughout Jesus' ministry, Jesus taught humility. In Matthew 19:30 and Matthew 20:16, Jesus said that "*the last shall be first and the first last*". Paul's humility goes beyond that of other men. Before he traveled on the road to Damascus, Paul was responsible for the imprisonment, suffering and death of Christians. He persecuted the Church of God. Read Acts 9:3-5. How humbling to be called out by the Son of God for persecuting Him. It would stick with you all the days of your life. In verse 10, Paul gives his testimony regarding the grace given to him. God could have struck Paul dead but he was only temporarily blinded. It was by grace Paul was spared and given salvation. Because of God's grace, Paul worked harder than any one.

"By the grace of God' we not only are what we are, but we also remain what we are. We should long ago have ruined ourselves, and damned ourselves, if Christ had not kept us by his almighty grace." (Spurgeon)

In verse 11, Paul concludes this section with regardless of who preached it, Paul or someone else, this is what you believed. Again, it has to be the gospel message that we have covered in this section. Do not add to it or remove anything from it! John 14:6, Jesus is the only way!

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Paul says that if they (and we) fully believe in the gospel message that he preached then we must believe in resurrection. Jesus died and was raised on the third day, the true resurrection. In verse 13, he reminds them that the converse is also true. If there is no such thing as resurrection, then Christ was not raised from the dead. If Christ was not resurrected then the gospel is false and everything that we believe has been in vain. If there is no resurrection then we are wasting our time. As Jennie Allen (from the video) and an old man on my newspaper route put it, “We may as well eat, drink and be happy for tomorrow we may die.” (From Isaiah 22:13)

If I didn't believe in resurrection then my message at my brother-in-law Rich's funeral would have been different. Without resurrection of the dead then there is no hope. It means that this is all there is. The entire New Testament was written under the foundation of resurrection. That would mean that the entire N.T. was false. Without the resurrection of Jesus then the O.T. prophecies would still not be fulfilled.

Throughout this entire section, Paul points out that without Christ's resurrection then our faith is a waste. As the hymn says, “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus Christ, my righteousness.” Paul says if Christ was not resurrected then anyone we tell about Jesus, has been a false witness. As a matter of fact, if Christ was not resurrected then we would not be here this morning, listening to a hope filled sermon about Jesus, studying an incorrect New Testament.

In verse 18, Paul says that if we have died then we are lost. We are gone forever. The Jehovah Witness believe much this same way. They believe that when Christ returns, only 144,000 living people will be taken to heaven. Their teachings says “If you die before Christ's return then sorry, tough luck you ain't coming back.” In verse 19, Paul finishes this section with if Jesus was not resurrected from the dead then we are to be pitied. Paul hasn't gotten there yet but I have to say “PRAISE GOD it is not this way!!!”

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

In verse 20, Paul uses that word that turns everything around, 'but'. He says that Jesus did raise from the dead, just as He said. John 2:19 says that "*Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.*" The second part of verse 20 says that Jesus is "*the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep*".

"Firstfruits is the Greek word *aparche*. In the Septuagint, this word is used for the offering of firstfruits and in secular usage the word was used for an entrance fee. "Jesus was the firstfruits of our resurrection in both senses. In the Old Testament, the offering of firstfruits brought one sheaf of grain to represent and anticipate the rest of the harvest (Leviticus 23:9-14). The resurrection of Jesus represents our resurrection, because if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection (Romans 6:5). The resurrection of Jesus also anticipates our resurrection, because we will be raised with a body like His." (Guzik)

"As in the firstfruits offered to God, the Jews were assured of God's blessing on the whole harvest; so by the resurrection of Christ, our resurrection is insured." (Trapp)

When did death come to man and woman? In the Garden of Eden. In verses 21 and 22, Paul is saying if man (Adam) brought sin into the world then God brought resurrection through a man (Jesus).

Adam was the first man and he brought death upon the human race. Jesus is sometimes called the second Adam because He undid what the first Adam did by bringing resurrection into the world. Adam brought us death and Jesus brings us new life.

In verse 23, Paul says that "*But each in his own order:*" (NASB). The NLT is easier to understand, "*But there is an order to this resurrection.*" That order is first Jesus had to die and be resurrected before any of us could be resurrected.

Yes, there were times in the Bible where someone was raised from the dead but those were special circumstances. After Jesus rose from dead, it became something for all believers. What does John 3:16 say who resurrection is for? Anyone who believes. Whosoever believes. Who does verse 23 say resurrection is for? They that belong to Christ.

24 Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his

enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

I separated this group because this is Paul prophesying. Just as John did in Revelation, Paul covers the end times in these verses. In case you forgot, Paul was called up to Heaven just as John was. Read 2 Corinthians 12:2–4 tells us, *“2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know— God knows. 3 And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— 4 was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell.”*

In verse 24, Paul says at the end of times, Jesus will “destroy” or “abolish” *“all rule and all authority and power”*. I know that God is in control of everything but who or what has authority of men today? Other men, Satan and death.

Verse 25, says that Jesus will reign until He has put all enemies under His feet.

When will rebellious man be defeated? Jesus second coming.

When will Jesus reign? 1000 year reign Revelation 20:1-6

When will Satan be completely defeated? After the 1000 year reign. Revelation 20:7-10

What does verse 26 say is the last enemy defeated? Death

In verse 27, Paul says that once Jesus has completely defeated His enemies and is control of everything, then He will turn everything back over to God the Father who gave Him control in the first place. When did Jesus first get control? Read Matthew 28:16-18. After His Resurrection. Who gave Him control? God

God gave Jesus control over heaven and earth but the relationship between Father and Son remained the same. In Acts 7:54-55, Stephen saw Jesus sitting at the right hand of God. In Luke 22:69, Jesus says that He will be sitting there in this place of honor. It shows that both have same authority but the one on the true throne has given the one to his right equal power and authority.

Read Genesis 41:39-42 says, *39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. 40 You shall be in charge of my*

palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.”

41 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.” 42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph’s finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.”

Joseph was given power and authority over Egypt. These verses say that only in throne was Pharaoh greater than Joseph. This same thing applies to God the Father and Jesus. Jesus has equal power and authority to God, only in throne are they different.

In verse 28, *“That God may be all in all:* Here, Paul refers to God the Son's desire to glorify God the Father through all eternity. Importantly, each person of the Trinity desires to glorify another person of the Trinity. The Son glorifies the Father (John 17:4), the Father glorifies the Son (John 17:5), and the Holy Spirit glorifies the Son (John 16:14). This aspect of the nature of God is something God wants us to walk in, having a concern for the glory of others, and not our own (Philippians 2:3-4).” (Guzik)

29 Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them? 30 And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? 31 I face death every day—yes, just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. 32 If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised,

*“Let us eat and drink,
for tomorrow we die.”*

33 Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” 34 Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.

In verse 29, Paul mentions those “baptized for the death”. Paul is referring to a pagan custom of baptism for the dead. "Paul simply mentions the superstitious custom without approving it and uses it to fortify his argument that there is a resurrection from the dead." (Mare)

“Paul certainly does not approve of the practice; he merely says that if there is no resurrection, why would the custom take place? The Mormon practice of baptism for the dead is neither Scriptural nor sensible.” (Guzik)

In verses 30 and 31, Paul says if this life is all there is, then why would I risk my life to tell that there is more. It makes perfect sense. Without resurrection, then it makes no sense for Paul to go through everything he endured for Christ and then lie to them. He gives them the example of fighting wild animals but there are numerous things that Paul endured for Jesus. (See 2 Corinthians 11:24-31)

If Paul didn't believe in the true Gospel of Jesus, then how could he face death daily to bring its message to the world. This alone is proof that the Gospel message is true, which means that the resurrection of Jesus is true, which means that the resurrection of believers is also true.

As I stated before, life is too short. If you are not following what is true then you may as well eat, drink and be merry for death is final. There are what I call "Just in case" Christians that cling to a weak faith in Christ, "Just in case" resurrection of the dead is true. Paul was all in and he lived his life that way.

In verse 33, Paul warns them and us not to be deceived. We have been warned about false prophets. Throughout the Old Testament, the Israelites were led astray by false religions and false prophets. Jesus even warns us about false prophets in Matthew 7:15-20. Jesus says, *15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.*

One of the differences between the Sadducees and Pharisees was that the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead but the Pharisees did. It is possible that there were followers of the Sadducees in the city of Corinth. Also there are people who just believe that this life is all there is.

Paul says to watch who you associate with. In other places in the Bible, yeast was used to say that a small amount of a bad thing corrupts the whole batch. I like the way the NLT says verse 34, *"Think carefully about what is right, and stop sinning."* It doesn't get any plainer than that. The verse continues, *"For to your shame I say that some of you don't know God at all."* Jesus' response to these people is recorded in Matthew 7:23, *'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'*

35 But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" 36 How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38 But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.

Covering even unasked questions for the Corinthian church, Paul asks the question, “*How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?*” To Paul the answer to the first part of this question should have been obvious to the Corinthians.

Since his birth, Paul had been raised to serve God and then on the road to Damascus he met Jesus. His beliefs about God up to that point were the foundation for his Christian beliefs. He would have said the same thing that Jesus said in Matthew 19:26. “*With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.*”

When on trial in Caesarea before Agrippa II and Festus (Acts 26). Paul was allowed to defend himself against charges made by the Sanhedrin. The Sadducees were part of that group and again, they didn’t believe in resurrection. During that trial Paul states to Agrippa II, “*Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?* (Acts 26:8)

Paul would have studied the book of Job. Read Job 19:25-27. Even Job believed in resurrection. The book of Job is believed to be the oldest book in the Bible and it says that “*Yet in my flesh, I shall see God.*”

In verse 36, Paul says that you can’t have resurrection unless you first die. The definition of the word ‘resurrection’, is “restore (a dead person) to life.” In verses 36-38, Paul uses the analogy of a seed to explain further. Paul likens the burial of a person to the planting of a seed. When you plant the seed, it will grow to a brand new plant. When a person is buried, it will ultimately become a resurrected body.

This is more pleasant to think of than what Job wrote in Job 9:26 (KJV), “*And though after my skin worms destroy this body.*” It really doesn’t matter what happens to the body after we die. Genesis 2:7 tells us that “*Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground*”. If God can make the first man out of dirt, then He can make a resurrected body regardless of its state after death. At any of the funerals of believers that I have spoken at, I make sure that everyone present knows that death is not final. Even though we miss the loved one, we will see them again if we too put our faith in Jesus.

Charles Spurgeon put it this way. "Dear friends, if such be death - if it be but a sowing, let us have done with all faithless, hopeless, graceless sorrow ... 'Our family circle has been broken,' say you. Yes, but only broken that it may be re-formed. You have lost a dear friend: yes, but only lost that friend that you may find him again, and find more than you lost. They are not lost; they are sown."

39 Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. 40 There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is

another. 41 The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

In verse 39, Paul says that when you plant a seed, it is just a seed and what grows from the seed looks nothing like the seed. He said in verse 38b that what a body is or how it looks is up to God, our Creator. In verse 40, he transitions and says that our earthly bodies and heavenly bodies will be different. He then uses another analogy for this based on the differences between the Earth, moon and stars. In these verses, Paul says that all bodies whether human or animals or celestial are not the same.

In our study of Heaven, we used Jesus' resurrected body as an example of how our resurrected body will look and behave. Passing through walls, no more illness or no more death will be 'glories' associated with the resurrected body. When God created Adam and us, He gave us a body that is suited for our life on Earth. Our resurrected bodies will be suited for life in Heaven and New Earth.

42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

In verse 42, Paul points out that whatever you want to consider your human body, the resurrection body will be way more glorious. What Paul says in the second part of verse 42 is so true. Never is it more true as when we age that our current body is perishable. I am reminded of this fact when I get up every day. For most of us, when we are in our 20's or 30's, we reach a point where we are no longer improving physically. Things begin to go downhill slowly. As I read these verses, I am reminded of what is usually said at a graveside service. "Ashes to ashes and dust to dust." God created Adam from dirt and when we die our body will decay and return to dirt. These words show that the body truly is perishable.

Verses 43 and 44, show the differences between our current bodies and our resurrected bodies.

it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory;
it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;
it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

"There is nothing more uncomely (unattractive), unlovely, and loathsome than a dead body; but it will not be so when it shall be raised again, then it shall be a beautiful, comely body. We shall rise in a full and perfect age, (as is generally thought,) and without those defects and deformities which may here make our bodies appear unlovely." (Poole)

Paul says in the second part of verse 44, that if there is a natural body then there is also a spiritual body. To Paul, one who has seen Jesus in His spiritual body, then he knows for a fact that this statement is true. When arguing or explaining things to the Greeks, Paul uses logic. “If” “Then” statements are part of logic. To Paul, it is logical that if we have physical then when we are resurrected, we get a spiritual body.

45 So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. 46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. 48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.

Paul paraphrases Genesis 2:7, “*Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.*” This is the creation story, the creation of the first Adam. Paul says that if the first Adam was created in a natural body then the last Adam will have a spiritual body. He points out that it would appear to us that the natural man came first but what does John 1:1-5 say? John 1:2 says that Jesus was present from the beginning.

In verse 47, Paul says that Adam, the first man was made from dust. Creation story tells us so. He refers to Jesus as the second man. Jesus is the second man because He was created different than any other man before Him or since. As the Christmas story tells us (Matt 1:20-23) Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. So Jesus even though He was fully human, He is fully God or a spiritual man. In verse 48, Paul says that by definition an earthly man was born out of human parents and was born on the Earth. Since Jesus is the only heavenly man ever seen on the Earth, then all heavenly beings are going to have the same attributes as Jesus.

The following verses show that Jesus in His resurrected body was physical because it could be touched and He ate food (Luke 24:39-43), yet it was not bound by the laws of nature (Luke 24:31; 36-37).

Verse 49 tells us that while we are in our earthly bodies we will have all the attributes of Adam or sinful man but when we have our resurrected bodies then we will have all the attributes of Jesus’ resurrected body. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul tells us that God will change our physical bodies into spiritual bodies. Philippians 3:21 says “*who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*”

50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not

all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in 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. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

In verse 50, Paul says that “flesh and blood” or our current bodies cannot inherit the kingdom of God. In order to go to heaven, we need to have a resurrection body. Jesus resurrection body was a physical body. From this verse, we can see why Randy Alcorn says that “God may grant us some physical form that will allow us to function as human beings while in that unnatural state “between bodies,” awaiting our resurrection.” (Alcorn, Randy. Heaven: A Comprehensive Guide to Everything the Bible Says About Our Eternal Home)

In verse 51, Paul tells us of a mystery. The mystery is the same one that he told the Thessalonian church in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. He is describing the rapture of the church. The first thing to happen is the raising the physical bodies of those who have died. “*In the twinkling of an eye*”, our dead corpses are transformed into resurrected bodies and we will be returned to our God given resurrected bodies. When the last trumpet sounds, regardless of the state of the dead body, the body leaves where it was placed or ended up. The “perishable” or “corruptible” will be made perfect.

Read Romans 1:23. The same word used to describe God, whether it is immortal or incorruptible, is used in 1 Corinthians 15:53. We will be immortal as God is immortal.

When we think of perishable, we think of fruits and vegetables. As our body ages, we become more like wilted lettuce and less like crisp lettuce. I am ready for a new imperishable body, one without the defects brought on by sin. If we are alive at the time of the Rapture, our bodies will also be transformed to resurrected bodies.

54 When 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?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

In verse 54, Paul reiterates what he has been saying. There will be a Rapture and we shall be made new and everlasting.

He then quotes Isaiah 25:8, “*Death has been swallowed up in victory.*” As believers who put our faith in Jesus, death has been defeated. The mortal has become immortal, the perishable has become imperishable. He also quotes Hosea 13:14. The complete verse in Hosea reads (NIV), “*I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death.*

Where, O death, are your plagues?

Where, O grave, is your destruction?”

Death for us will be defeated. Jesus showed us when He was raised from the dead that He has power over death. Because of our faith in Him, we too have inherited everlasting life. Read the following verses, what do they say about this inheritance?

Ephesians 1:11 – NLT – “*because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God*”

Hebrews 9:15 – NLT – We receive the inheritance because Christ died to remove the penalty of sin.

1 Peter 1:23 – NASB – “*for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.*”

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 – NIV – “*Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, 22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*”

Revelation 21:4 – “*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.*”

Paul closes this chapter with an encouragement. He encourages us and them to continue be strong and stand firm. In 1 Timothy 6:12, Paul encourages Timothy to “*Fight the good fight, Take hold of the eternal life*”.

Isaiah 55:11 tells us that the Word of God will not return void but it will ultimately accomplish whatever God intends it to. Paul says that what we do for God will not be in vain. Jesus said in Matthew 24:35, “*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*”