

Connect

Talk about a time you had to completely trust someone else with the outcome of a situation, without being able to control it yourself. What did that feel like trusting them?

Verses - 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 (CSB)

READ ALOUD:

50 What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor can corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Listen, I am telling you a mystery: We will not all fall asleep, but we will 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 incorruptible, and we will be changed. 53 For this corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body must be clothed with immortality. 54 When this corruptible body is clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body is clothed with immortality, then the saying that is written will take place: Death has been swallowed up in victory. 55 Where, death, is your victory? Where, 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, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! 58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. In v.50, Paul states that "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." Based on the message this week, what does "flesh and blood" represent in terms of our present bodies and character? Why is this nature incompatible with God's kingdom?

2. Paul reveals a "mystery" in v.51: not everyone will die, but everyone will be changed. What does this tell us about the primary requirement for entering God's eternal kingdom?

3. Paul in vv.54-57 describes death being "swallowed up in victory." According to him, what gives death its "sting," and how did Jesus give us the ultimate victory over it?

4. Given the promise of this future victory, what specific instructions does Paul give to believers in v.58? How does knowing our "labor is not in vain" empower us to live this way now?

Share

Discuss 1:

The sermon used examples of Moses, Martin Luther, and Jesus to show what it means to be ruled by God. A key thing they all had in common was that they gave up "control over the outcome." How does the fear of losing control keep us from fully obeying God in our daily lives? What is one area where you feel challenged to trust God with the outcome?

Discuss 2:

Paul encourages us to be "steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" (v.58). What does "the work of the Lord" look like for you this week at home, at your job, or wherever you do?

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.