

In the previous paragraphs, Paul has been telling the Corinthians how the bodily resurrection of Jesus is essential to our faith. If it did not happen our faith is in vain. There would be no solution for our sinful condition, for Jesus' resurrection was the verification that His sacrifice on our behalf was accepted by God. Then Paul wrote about how different our new bodies will be from these earthly bodies. In today's passage he continues with that theme but moves on to the conclusion of how it should affect our lives.

⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 1 Corinthians 15:50 Our earthly bodies were born of the fallen world and have a limited life span. To enter our eternal home, we must be changed to an unfallen nature like that of Adam before the fall, like that of Jesus after the resurrection. Jesus was born in a body of the earth like ours, but He had no sin nature. He was physical, but His blood was poured out on the cross. His risen body had the same elements but was free of the curse upon the world that followed Adam and Eve's sin in the Garden of Eden. That curse made every created thing in this world subject to decay and death.

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven. That does not mean our eternal bodies will not be physical. It was an expression that meant our present corporal being. They used the expression like we use it, meaning the present human condition (Matthew 16:17ⁱ; Ephesians 6:12ⁱⁱ). There are only two types of things: perishable and imperishable. This world and all physical things in it, including our bodies, are perishable. If we keep that in mind, our focus in life will surely change. Jesus told us we are not to work for the things that perish, but for what is eternal (John 6:27ⁱⁱⁱ).

To make it possible for us to have the same change that took place in His body, He had to shed all His blood as the penalty for our sins. The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23^{iv}). The life of the flesh is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11^v). He had to be planted in the ground like a grain of wheat (John 12:24^{vi}). He knew that by doing so He could give that needed transfusion of spiritual life to as many as would receive Him, making Adam's sons and daughters into the Second Adam's brothers and sisters (2 Peter 1:4^{vii}). He who was imperishable took on mortal flesh to defeat death and make a way for the perishable mortals to have imperishable bodies. Peter declares that "We have been born again of imperishable seed, the Word of God" (1 Peter 1:23^{viii}).

⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold/Listen! Paul is telling us something only God could reveal to mankind. While we should have seen it in nature in seeds and the caterpillar, it was a leap too far for the human mind accept. God had to reveal the mystery of resurrection.

Jews used sleep is a reference to death. We will not all die because some believers will be alive when Jesus returns (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17^{ix}). We will be made different, like unto Jesus' glorious body (Philippians 3:21^x). The spirits of the dead in Christ will return with the Lord and their transformed bodies will rise to meet them in the air. Then

the believers who are still alive will be transformed and rise to meet them. May it be soon Lord Jesus.

The flood of Noah's day temporarily ended the suffering caused by sin (Genesis 18:21^{xi}) and cleansed the earth while Noah and his family were lifted above it and arrived on a cleansed planet. In a similar way, Jesus will lift us out of this world and bring us back to a cleansed one. It is a start over. Only then we will be His perfected ambassadors in the earth (Luke 19:17^{xii}).

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. 1 Corinthians 15:52 The change will be instantaneous (*atomos* - the smallest measure of time)! We will be made different in a split second. Bing!

Many verses in the Old Testament speak of the Lord's coming being preceded by a trumpet blast (Zechariah 9:14^{xiii}; Isaiah 18:3^{xiv}). Speculation about the last trumpet includes the last trumpet of the Tribulation. That is unlikely as Paul died before Revelation was written. The camps of Israel in the wilderness had trumpet calls when they were to move (Numbers 10:1-6^{xv}). Passages about the Day of the Lord mention a trumpet blast (Isaiah 27:13^{xvi}; Joel 2:1^{xvii}; Zephaniah 1:14-16^{xviii}; Zechariah 9:14^{xix}; Matthew 24:31^{xx}; 1 Thessalonians 4:16^{xxi}). The trumpet heralds the end of one age and the beginning of another when the kingdoms of the world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ (Revelation 11:15^{xxii}). The last trumpet is probably referring to the announcing of the final age which is an eternal one.

It is encouraging to note the surety with which Paul says these things will happen. **The trumpet will sound! The dead will be raised incorruptible! We shall be changed!** Paul is not speculating. God revealed this to him in nature and in the Word. It is same thing that Jesus taught in John 5. *²⁸Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.* John 5:28,29 Just as Jesus called the rotting corpse of Lazarus back to wholeness and life, so will He call our bodies to rise but to an immortal condition. He promised to raise everyone who believes in Him (John 6:40^{xxiii}). He is the resurrection and the life! Even if one who believes in Him dies, Jesus said, "Yet shall he live" (John 11:25^{xxiv})! There was no ambiguity with Jesus either!

⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:53 We *must* be remade for our new heavenly environment. In the previous passage he told us about different kinds of flesh such as fish and birds (15:39^{xxv}). Each creature is designed for its environment. We could not be in Jesus' glorified presence or stand before God's throne in the bodies we have now. We could not join the heavenly choir with adequate voices. But then... oh then we will be in form and substance fully able without anything to hold us back or weigh us down (2 Corinthians 5:1^{xxvi}). Perfect harmonies will come from our mouths. Adoration and praise God deserves will pour from our hearts. Our minds will not wander nor be limited, but we will know even as we are known (1 Corinthians 13:12^{xxvii}).

Paul is using a change of clothing metaphor (Psalm 102:26^{xxviii}). He also used it in Romans 13:14^{xxix}; 2 Corinthians 5:2-4^{xxx} and elsewhere as an expression of putting on Jesus for living the Christian life. He uses it here in conjunction with his teaching on the lifting of the curse from the physical world in Romans 8:19-23^{xxxi}. The saints who return with the Lord to judge the earth are said to be clothed in fine linen white and pure, symbolic of our sinless condition (Revelation 19:14^{xxxii}).

While we are to put on Christ now, expressing His attributes (Colossians 3:10-12^{xxxiii}), we realize we often allow the flesh to be evident instead. But then, the passing fallen nature will be no more. Our robe of Christ will permeate our entire being so that our weaknesses will be vanquished forever! Paul's letter to the Ephesians goes so far as to say we will be filled to all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:19^{xxxiv}). It was his prayer asking that the Ephesians might know the love of God so they would be filled to all the fullness of God. When we see Jesus in glory that prayer will be fully answered. That does not mean that we will be the same as God, but that the attributes to which man is capable of receiving, which are the fruits of the Spirit, will be fully expressed through us. We aim at that high calling now, and sometimes we experience it in part, but then we will arrive at this goal of Christlikeness.

⁵⁴ 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." ⁵⁵ "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 1

Corinthians 15:54,55 This time of transformation is what was predicted in Isaiah 25:6-9^{xxxv} and Hosea 13:14^{xxxvi}. That chapter in Isaiah speaks of God bringing salvation to all nations, which corresponds to Jesus' prediction that the gospel would be preached in all the world as a witness and then the end would come (Matthew 24:14^{xxxvii}). The Hosea passage is a warning to Israel that they will perish unless God rescues them from the power of the grave.

"Paul's use of Hosea is a fluid adaptation linked to Isaiah 25 by the key word 'victory' in a mutually interpretive fashion. Collins explains that this method of citation is 'akin to the way in which the Scriptures were used in rabbinic commentaries, in the Targums, and in the Qumran midrashim.'"^{xxxviii} They would pull verses together that used a similar word even if the context differed. But it may be that Paul saw the rapture of the redeemed around the world coming at the same time as the need for Israel to repent and be a part of the new man or perish during the last day of Jacob's trouble (Zechariah 12:10^{xxxix}-13:1^{xl}). In other words, he saw these passages would be fulfilled at the same time.

Jesus has the keys of death and hell even now. But then death will be destroyed (15:26^{xli}) so that God will be all in all (15:28^{xlii}). Christ has taken the sting of death upon Himself so that we would not have to suffer it. That sting is sin, for the soul that sins must die (Ezekiel 18:4^{xliii}).

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 1 Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is the venom of sin, for without being redeemed, death means we are on our way to eternal judgment. The law demands justice. If it is not met on the cross, if Jesus' gift of grace earned upon that cross is rejected, then we must face justice ourselves

and face that sting. Those in Christ are victorious because we are in the Victorious One. While we do not mourn as those who have no hope, death is still a separation and painful for those who remain (Hebrews 2:14,15^{xliv}; 1 Thessalonians 4:13^{xlv}). But then it will forever be done and over with for there will be no more death and separation.

One of the saddest things in this life is the separation death brings, especially when the person is young. While we do not mourn as the world does because we know we will be together again, that time of separation is not God's original intent. It entered the world as a curse upon sin. Separation is very painful. If it is someone very dear to us, it stays with us all our earthly lives. Thank God we are promised this coming day when that separation will be no more! The sting will be gone because sin and death will be no more. When we are perfected, there will be no need for the law. That can only happen on that day when He makes us whole. Imagine it. No more temptation to sin, no selfishness, only love and worship from purified hearts!

⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57 THANK YOU JESUS! He did what we could not do, and so we do not fear death for it has no sting for us who are in Jesus. If we will trust in Him, He takes our sins and gives us His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21^{xlvi}). We have peace with God (Romans 5:1^{xlvii}). We can face life and death without fear. We can rejoice when our redeemed loved ones go on to glory. We can refuse sin and be obedient to the Spirit.

Knowing this is our certain future, how should we be living until that day comes? Sir Winston Churchill declared: "You ask, what is our policy? I can say: It is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us: to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy. You ask, "What is our aim?" I can answer with one word: Victory—victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival."^{xlviii}

How much more applicable is Churchill's message to the greatest enemy of humanity, death? Jesus said Satan has come to kill, steal, and destroy (John 10:10^{xlix}). But he is already defeated. Jesus gives us abundant life now and throughout eternity. We just need to be in the victory already won for us on the cross. See Romans 7:25a¹.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore be steadfast, immovable...* Paul is telling us that the certainty of resurrection and its implications for us are key motivations for us to stand firm in our faith until our own resurrection comes. Because we will be raised, whatever we face now has an eternal purpose (3:8^{li}; 4:11-13^{lii}; Hebrews 6:10^{liii}). Our work will be rewarded. These light and momentary afflictions are not to be compared to the glory that will be revealed in us (2 Corinthians 4:17^{liv}).

To be steadfast is to be fixed, determined, purposed, faithful to the end. We have a reason to be steadfast and unwavering as we are laboring for God's eternal kingdom. Immovable is to be unyielding, unshaken, and undisturbed. Do not be moved by the difficulties we face or the world's threats. Like, Paul, be consistently overflowing in our

work for Christ (15:10^{lv}). The Greek word for labor in this case, “your labor in the Lord” *always means never cease, never stop, never slacken up, never quit, never retire.*^{lvi}

⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. 15:49 That is what we are looking forward to! That is why we should be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Our work (in the Lord - not the flesh) will be rewarded. Verse 58 is the instructive conclusion of the chapter if not the whole letter. When this is the glorious future that we are destined to experience, how can we get caught up competing over who is the best leader, our rights that might stumble a brother, sexual immorality, lawsuits against believers, pride in our gifts, demanding to be heard, or listening to teachers who don’t know God!

We are soon to experience the end of things as we now experience them. There will be a sudden total change. Sin and death will be no more. Heavenly rewards be distributed to the faithful, rewards that are so glorious that we cannot presently grasp the wonder of them. We are going to the very presence of the glorified Christ.

I want to add just a brief word on rewards. The fact that we will be rewarded in heaven for obedience to Christ on earth is mentioned numerous times in Scripture. Jesus commanded us to lay up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19,20^{lvii}). God is just. He pays His workers. That is why a command in the Old Testament demands that employer does not withhold wages from whom it is due (Leviticus 19:13^{lviii}). We do not work *to* be rewarded. We obey the Spirit because we have surrendered our lives and consider it out duty. Anything less would be ungrateful for all He has done for us. Nevertheless, He promises a reward *for* our labors (1 Corinthians 3:14^{lix}). That is not our main motivation, but it should certainly encourage us.

Hold fast to this good news (15:2^{lx}). The promise is so incredible, we cannot imagine it. Do not lose heart or be sidetracked lest your labor be in vain. Press on through this short life. Eternity is before us. Our reward is waiting for us. Jesus longs to finish the work in us and welcome us home (15:10^{lxi}). We are going to the wedding feast of the Lamb! What joy and glory await us there is beyond our present comprehension. But we know that God tells us that at His right hand are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11^{lxii}). If we truly believe this, then we will act accordingly by the grace of God. Amen?

Questions:

- 1 What are the two types of things? Why does that matter?
- 2 How was it made possible for us to have immortal bodies?
- 3 What is the mystery God revealed to Paul?
- 4 How does the flood of Noah’s day picture what is to come?
- 5 What does the last trumpet refer to?
- 6 What did Jesus say about resurrection of believers?
- 7 What two verses did Paul quote and why?
- 8 How can victory be ours?
- 9 Define steadfast, immovable, and labor.
- 10 Why should we give our lives to Jesus?

ⁱ **Matthew 16:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

ⁱⁱ **Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)**

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

ⁱⁱⁱ **John 6:27 (ESV)**

²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”

^{iv} **Romans 6:23 (ESV)**

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

^v **Leviticus 17:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.

^{vi} **John 12:24 (ESV)**

²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

^{vii} **2 Peter 1:4 (ESV)**

⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

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^{ix} **1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 (ESV)**

¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

^x **Philippians 3:21 (ESV)**

²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

^{xi} **Genesis 18:21 (ESV)**

²¹ I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”

^{xii} **Luke 19:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.’

^{xiii} **Zechariah 9:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ Then the LORD will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning; the Lord GOD will sound the trumpet and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south.

^{xiv} **Isaiah 18:3 (ESV)**

³ All you inhabitants of the world, you who dwell on the earth, when a signal is raised on the mountains, look! When a trumpet is blown, hear!

^{xv} **Numbers 10:1-6 (ESV)**

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Make two silver trumpets. Of hammered work you shall make them, and you shall use them for summoning the congregation and for breaking camp. ³ And when both are blown, all the congregation shall gather themselves to you at the entrance of the tent of meeting. ⁴ But if they blow only one, then the chiefs, the heads of the tribes of Israel, shall gather themselves to you. ⁵ When you blow an alarm, the

camps that are on the east side shall set out. ⁶ And when you blow an alarm the second time, the camps that are on the south side shall set out. An alarm is to be blown whenever they are to set out.

^{xvi} **Isaiah 27:13 (ESV)**

¹³ And in that day a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were lost in the land of Assyria and those who were driven out to the land of Egypt will come and worship the LORD on the holy mountain at Jerusalem.

^{xvii} **Joel 2:1 (ESV)**

¹ Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,

^{xviii} **Zephaniah 1:14-16 (ESV)**

¹⁴ The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵ A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

^{xix} **Zechariah 9:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ Then the LORD will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning; the Lord GOD will sound the trumpet and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south.

^{xx} **Matthew 24:31 (ESV)**

³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

^{xxi} **1 Thessalonians 4:16 (ESV)**

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

^{xxii} **Revelation 11:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."

^{xxiii} **John 6:40 (ESV)**

⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

^{xxiv} **John 11:25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ^{xxiv}

^{xxv} **1 Corinthians 15:39 (ESV)**

³⁹ For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.

^{xxvi} **2 Corinthians 5:1 (ESV)**

¹ For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

^{xxvii} **1 Corinthians 13:12 (ESV)**

¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

^{xxviii} **Psalms 102:26 (ESV)**

²⁶ They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away,

^{xxix} **Romans 13:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

^{xxx} **2 Corinthians 5:2-4 (ESV)**

² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

^{xxxi} **Romans 8:19-23 (ESV)**

¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the

whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

^{xxxii} **Revelation 19:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

^{xxxiii} **Colossians 3:10-12 (ESV)**

¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. ¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

^{xxxiv} **Ephesians 3:19 (ESV)**

¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

^{xxxv} **Isaiah 25:6-9 (ESV)**

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. ⁷ And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸ He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹ It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

^{xxxvi} **Hosea 13:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from Death? O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion is hidden from my eyes.

^{xxxvii} **Matthew 24:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

^{xxxviii} New American Commentary - Volume 28: 1 Corinthians

^{xxxix} **Zechariah 12:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

^{xi} **Zechariah 13:1 (ESV)**

¹ "On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

^{xli} **1 Corinthians 15:26 (ESV)**

²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

^{xlii} **1 Corinthians 15:28 (ESV)**

²⁸ When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

^{xliii} **Ezekiel 18:4 (ESV)**

⁴ Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

^{xliv} **Hebrews 2:14-15 (ESV)**

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

^{xlv} **1 Thessalonians 4:13 (ESV)**

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

^{xlvi} **2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)**

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{xlvii} **Romans 5:1 (ESV)**

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

^{xlviii} -Winston Churchill, taken from his speech given on May 13, 1940, entitled "Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat"; <http://www.winstonchurchill.org/learn/speeches/speeches-of-winston-churchill/92-blood-toil-tears-and-sweat>.

^{xlix} **John 10:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

^l **Romans 7:25a (ESV)**

²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

^{li} **1 Corinthians 3:8 (ESV)**

⁸ He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor.

^{lii} **1 Corinthians 4:11-13 (ESV)**

¹¹ To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, ¹² and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; ¹³ when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.

^{liii} **Hebrews 6:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.

^{liv} **2 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

^{lv} **1 Corinthians 15:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

^{lvi} Leadership Ministries Worldwide, [*The First & Second Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians*](#), The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 1996), 202.

^{lvii} **Matthew 6:19-20 (ESV)**

¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

^{lviii} **Leviticus 19:13 (ESV)**

¹³ "You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning.

^{lix} **1 Corinthians 3:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.

^{lx} **1 Corinthians 15:2 (ESV)**

² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

^{lxi} **1 Corinthians 15:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

^{lxii} **Psalms 16:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.