

# **Life Group Guide 1 Cor 15:50–58 “The Victory Found in the Mystery” For the Sermon Preached on Mar 19 and For Use in Life Groups through Mar 26**

## **Icebreaker Questions**

Our church has just begun inviting people to our Easter service this year and to our new Wednesday night service (begins 4/5). Tell the class about one of the invite or gospel conversations you had this week.

## **Read the Biblical Text: 1 Cor 15:50–58**

### **Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline**

- I. The Choice of the Victory (vv. 50-54a)
  - a. The mystery of the victory concealed (vv. 50-51a).
  - b. The mystery of the victory revealed (vv. 51b-53).
- II. The Certainty of the Victory (vv. 54-57)
  - a. Immortality is a certainty in the believer’s victory (v. 54b-56).
  - b. Thanksgiving is a reality in the believer’s victory (v. 57).
- III. The Confidence of the Victory (v. 58)
  - a. The confidence found in the victory allows you to be immovable in your faith (v. 58a)
  - b. The confidence found in the victory allows you to be diligent in your service (v. 58b)
  - c. The confidence found in the victory allows you to be victorious in this life (v. 58c)

### **Observations of the Biblical Text**

1. According to Paul in v. 50, what cannot inherit the kingdom of God? What cannot inherit “the imperishable?”

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2. What “mystery” does Paul unveil in vs. 51-52?

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3. In v. 53 how does Paul describe our bodies now?

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4. In v. 53 how does Paul describe our bodies in the resurrection?

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5. According to vs. 54-55 what will be the result of the resurrection of our bodies?

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6. According to v. 56 what is the sting of death? What is the power of sin?

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7. Who gives us the victory over death, sin, and the law in v. 57?

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8. According to v. 58 how should we live our lives knowing we will be raised in the last day?

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### **Interpretation of the Biblical Text**

1. What does Paul mean when he says that “flesh and blood” and “the perishable” cannot inherit the kingdom of God in v. 50? How does this serve as an introduction to what he says in vs. 51-57?

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2. How does Paul describe the moment of the resurrection of the dead (and the living!) in vs. 51-54? What does this tell us about the end of the days? What comfort should we take from this description? How is it a “mystery”?

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3. Paul begins closing his argument in vs. 54-55 by quoting Isaiah 25 (and Hosea 13)? Read Isaiah 25:1-12. How does Isaiah 25 help explain what Paul is saying at the end of 1 Corinthians 15? What is Paul’s point in 1 Corinthians 15:56-57?

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4. After a lengthy theological discussion of the resurrection, Paul ends with some simple, practical admonitions in v. 58. What does he say? What does he mean with each of these?

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### **Application of the Biblical Text**

1. This week memorize 1 Corinthians 15:56-57: “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2. Keep up with our annual Bible reading plan this week. If you have fallen behind, pick up where we are right now. You can always go back and read what you’ve missed as you have time.

3. If someone you invited to church on Easter turned down your invitation and said, “I’ve got a lot of really bad stuff going on in my life that I need to get past, so I’m not ready to start going to church” what would you say? How might 1 Corinthians 15 help you answer their objection?

4. Work phrase by phrase through v. 58. What practical advice would you give to help someone put those things into practice, starting today?