

Lesson II.

THE RESURRECTION

April 12, 1903

1 Cor. 15: 20, 21, 50-58. Commit to memory vs. 55-58. Read the whole chapter.

20 But now **1** is Christ risen from the dead, **2** and becoming the firstfruits of them that **3** slept.
 21 For since by man **came** death, by man **came** also the resurrection of the dead.

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I **4** shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Revised Version **1** hath Christ been raised; **2** Om! and become; **3** are asleep; **4** tell; **5** But; **6** come to pass; **7** victory; **8** death; **9** sting; **10** power.

EXPLANATION

Connection—Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians from Ephesus, to answer certain questions and to correct certain errors which had crept into the church. In this chapter he discusses the resurrection, which had been denied by some of the Corinthians, v. 12.

20. But now is Christ risen. Paul, in vs. 1-11, proves by many witnesses that Christ rose from the dead. In vs. 12-19, he argues that, since Christ has risen, it is certain that the dead will rise. **The firstfruits.** The Israelites used to present the first ripe sheaf of the harvest to God, Lev. 23: 10. This sheaf showed that the reaping had begun. So the rising of Christ represents the rising of all His people. **That slept.** Death is compared to a sleep, Mk. 5: 39; Acts 7: 60.

21. Since by man came death. The current of death flowed to all mankind through the first man Adam as a channel, Gen. 2: 17; Rom. 5: 12. **By man came also the resurrection of the dead.** Through Christ the current of life flows to all believers, vs. 22, 23.

50. Now this I say. He had shown that as the seed becomes stalk and flower and a new harvest, these earthly bodies may become spiritual bodies, vs. 35-49. Now he shows why this change must take place. **Flesh and blood;** the present living body. **Cannot inherit.** Our bodies cannot enter into heaven without a change. **Neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.** Believers are heirs of heaven, Matt. 25: 34; Rom. 8: 17. Into heaven (for it is God's abode) nothing that decays can enter. Therefore their decaying earthly bodies need to be changed, as in the resurrection.

51. I shew you a mystery; something one could not know, unless God had revealed it. **We shall not all sleep.** Not all shall die, for some will be living at the resurrection day. **But we shall all be changed.** (See Phil. 3: 21; Rev. 1: 13-16.)

52. In a moment; literally "in an atom" of time. **The last trump;** like the war trumpet used for giving signals and commands. (See Matt. 24: 31; 1 Thess. 4: 16.) The Jews were drawn to their great feasts by trumpet blasts. **The dead shall be raised incorruptible;** with bodies changed and glorious. **And we;** that are still living shall be changed at the second coming of Christ, 1 Thess. 4: 17.

54 **5** So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall **6** be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where **is thy 7** sting? O **8** grave, where **is thy 9** victory.

56 The sting of death **is sin;** and the **10** strength of sin **is the 11** law.

57 But thanks **be** to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

53, 54. For this corruptible; as if pointing to his own body. **Must put on incorruption.** The new body is like a garment covering the old, "swallowing it up," 2 Cor. 5: 4. **This mortal;** the present body subject to death. **Must put on immortality;** be so changed that it cannot die. **Death is swallowed up in victory** (Isa. 25: 8). Christ's victory over death shall be complete, vs. 25, 26.

55-57. O death, where is thy sting? (Compare Hos. 13: 14). Death is likened to a beast with a sting. **The sting of death is sin.** Knowing we have sinned makes death terrible. **The strength**



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of sin is the law. Sin makes us afraid because it is breaking God's law, 1 John 3: 4. Those who break God's law must suffer punishment. **God which giveth us the victory.** Victory over death is so certain that it is spoken of as present. **Through our Lord Jesus Christ.** It is only because Christ in His death bore the punishment due to us for sin that we have the victory.

58. Therefore; because of this triumph over sin and death. **Be ye steadfast;** in faith, Col. 1: 23. **Unmovable;** by temptation or persecution. **Always abounding.** The word "abounding" means "flowing over the edges all round." **Your labour is not in vain.** (See Matt. 10: 42.) **In the Lord.** Your labor, done in His name and by His strength, shall win a share in His glory.