

# 1 CORINTHIANS

*Seeing Life through the Mind of Christ*

“Oh Death Where is Your Sting”

1 Corinthians 15:19, 42-44, 50-58

*Introductory question: Do we need to broaden our thinking about what Jesus Christ has purchased for us?*

- **1 Cor. 15:19** “If in Christ we have hope *in this life only*, we are of all people *most to be pitied*.”  
(ESV)
  - What is your hope in, *bc of Jesus, outside of this present life?*
  - Do you ever consider what happens to you in the *afterlife?*

1. *What happens when I die? Depends on what I did with Jesus while alive.*

**A. Believe/trust in Jesus for forgiveness – Acts 10:43, 2:38:**

1. Soul/spirit departs body; **immediately present in heaven**. Lk 23:43, Acts 7:59, Lk 16:22
2. Physical body disintegrates to dust.

**B. Did not believe/trust in Jesus for forgiveness:**

1. Soul/spirit departs body; **immediately present in hell**. Lk 16:23, 26, Mt 25:41
2. Physical body disintegrates to dust.

2. *What happens when the **soul of a believer departs** the human body at death?*

A. 2 Cor. 5:1-5 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**. . . <sup>4</sup> 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**. <sup>5</sup> He who has **prepared us for this** very thing is God, who has given us the **Spirit as a guarantee**. (ESV)

- 2 Cor 1:20, 22





### 3. *What happens at the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus?*

- A. *All believers* will meet a *returning Jesus* in the clouds (2<sup>nd</sup> coming): 1 Cor 15:51
  1. Dead (asleep) *will rise up in their spiritual body*. v44
  2. Living will ascend *in their spiritual body*. V51, 53
  3. *Heavenly persons return* with Jesus. 1 Thess 4:14
- B. Those who are not “in Christ” will not participate. They will be left behind. Luke 17:26-35

1 Thess. 4:13-17 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. <sup>14</sup> *For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.*

<sup>15</sup> 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... [continues Paul's word in 1 Cor 15:50f]



4. *In the “twinkling of an eye,” the mystery of transformation will occur. Death will be swallowed up in victory at that moment.*

A. When will the moment be? Matt 24:36

B. What has to happen, first? Rev 20:15, Rev 13:8

C. When will death been “swallowed up”?

When all believers (in the lamb’s book of life) have received their spiritual body – *death will be no more since the number of believers is complete*. Death will have been swallowed up in victory. It is God’s victory, given to believers bc of Jesus (15:57)!

## Next Steps:

1. Have you thought about what will happen to you in the afterlife? Why not prepare for tomorrow, today?
2. The last verse of the chapter reminds us that our labor for the Lord, in the meantime, will not be forgotten. As we press toward the celebration of the birth of the Lord, remember that every moment of service for the Lord, e.g., prayers, physical work, helps, and testimonies, will be “banked” by the Holy Spirit to employ on your behalf!