

Ohio Bible Fellowship

Winter Conference

January 12-13, 2018

Message Four

Secure Hope in an Insecure World

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:50–58 (ESV)

⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell 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 trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 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?”

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 beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Introduction: Paul brings his discussion of the resurrection to a climactic close in this text. He declares that those who die are not the only ones who will be transformed at the return of Christ; Christians still living on that Day will also be changed.

I. God will transform us for life in the kingdom. 50-53

A. Our mortal existence is unfit for the kingdom. 50

- B. But God will change the living and the dead. 51-52
 - 1. He will change us all instantly.
 - 2. He will change us all at the last trumpet.
- C. God will give us new “clothes” suitable for the kingdom. 53

II. God promised our transformation in Scripture. 54-56

- A. Scripture promises God will reverse the effects of death . . . 54-55
- B. because God has addressed the cause of death. 56

III. God secured our transformation through Christ. 57

- A. Victory over sin and death is ours . . .
- B. to the glory of God!

IV. Therefore, let’s serve with unshakable confidence. 58

- A. Let’s persevere in the faith . . .
- B. and build the church with full dedication, . . .
- C. knowing that our work has eternal value.

Today’s take-home truth: A confident hope secured by unwavering trust compels us to unreserved service.