

## Resurrection Power

1 Corinthians 15:50-58



**Happy Easter!**

**Background: Resurrection Power** is always a good topic but even more so in these times of global pandemic. When God raised Jesus from the grave on Easter morning, the power of sin and death was broken. And while we still see the effects of sin and death all around, we know that one day, death will fully and finally be defeated and God will raise us as well. The Apostle Paul builds on this further to say that, in fact, Jesus' resurrection begins a chain of events that absolutely guarantees our resurrection, too! Resurrection Power gives us the confidence to live 'all out' for Jesus, knowing that our faith is not in vain and death will not have the final say in our lives.

**Sermon Text: 1 Cor 15:50-58 (NIV)**

*50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."*

*55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"*

*56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

## Discussion Questions

### 1. Preparation

- a. As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
- b. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- c. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?

### 2. Sermon questions (pick 3)

- a. If someone would ask you what Easter means to you, what would you say? Has your answer changed at all due to the pandemic?
- b. If a good friend of yours were to make an argument that their eternity is secure because of their goodness, how would you respond?
- c. Joel said that many of us (including him) “get excited for Easter but live the rest of the year in fear and doubt.” Do you think this describes you? Why or why not?
- d. Joel said resurrection power is available to us right now in these three ways:
  1. Giving thanks (57)
  2. Standing firm and unmoved (58a)
  3. Going “all out” for the Lord (58b)Of these three ways, which one do you want to pray for in your life? Why?
- e. Joel drew our attention to “participating in God’s work,” one of our PBCC family values. During this shelter-in-place, where are you participating in his work?