

Death unto Victory

1 Corinthians 15

It says in the Bible we are to confess that Jesus is Lord. You can't just think it. You can't just wish it. But you must speak out loud and it is a proclamation that God holds you to. If you don't hold yourself to it over a period of time the Bible says that God sees you're a liar and the truth is not in you. God formed Himself. There was nothing in the beginning and then there was God. God confessed that He knew of no other God formed in the universe. He formed us in the beginning. Before the world was created He formed us but when man sinned He had to come back and reshape us to what He created us to be. It says in the word God is the potter and we're the clay. He made us out of clay so we wouldn't leave this earth until He wanted us to. In Daniel 7 it says in the end times mankind will try to change times and laws. There are all kinds of places that mankind is trying to change laws. I think one of the laws is trying to go to different planets. God made us out of clay so we would stay here. When our clay bodies leave us, if we are formed in the image of Christ we will be a spirit like God is and He will give us life everlasting so we will never die. It's only given to those that qualify to make it to heaven. He doesn't want another satan, so He's testing us. Mankind was given what was in the Father and the Son because He breathed into us everlasting life. But everlasting life is only good as a covenant as long as you're following that covenant with God. When you fail to fulfill the covenant with God, the everlasting is gone. If you look in the Old Testament there are a lot of places that God says it's everlasting. It's everlasting as far as God is concerned but when man turns his back on God it's not everlasting anymore. But the day will come when we have eternal life that we shall be like Him. And to be like Him we will no longer have sin in us therefore we shall see Him like He is. But you can't see Him as He is yet in a clay body because the clay body still has sin in it. It would burn you up in a second just like if you touched a high wire with all the energy that's in it.

God formed Himself. How He did it I don't know, but He has formed everything. We are in the likeness and image of God. For us to let Him form us and us to complete the task that He wants us to do is easy in God's eyes. We think it's hard, it's rough, we have to give up this or that, but God spent who knows how many million years to make all the universe and everything that's here and then to create a world that was for His pleasure. Man failed, but He made a way and is going to require us to redeem it through Christ the redeemer living in us to its original state before He comes back. In 1 Corinthians 15 it shows us how that's done. Christ came from the Father. He was without sin and died to bring life back to us. Not physical life, but spiritual life. We are spiritual beings and we are physical beings. God is a righteous and good God, trying to help us every day to receive the rewards that He has for His children that obey Him. In Hebrews 11:6 it says you must believe that God is and that He's a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him. I believe that with all my heart. He was angry with the children of Israel when they didn't come to Him to be healed because He wanted to be all in all for His people. He wants to be everything for us if we'll let Him. It says because of their lack of faith the children of Israel limited God and what He could do for them. I believe He exists. I believe that I was born into a new kingdom, and I believe there is nothing that God wouldn't do for me and for you if you wouldn't limit Him in what He can do. I believe that with all my heart. If He can rebirth me into the spiritual realm, then He's a pretty incredible God.

1 Corinthians 15:19, *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.* God doesn't want another satan in heaven. He requires us to be faithful; to hate the world and love the kingdom of God; to support it and guard it and keep ourselves from the worldly life. Verse 23, *But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.* A lot of people think that as soon as you die you're going to heaven. They live like hell but then they treat them like saints when they die. That's the lie from satan. I want to read that verse again so you understand. *But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits.* Christ died and rose

again which gives us the hope that when He comes back for us we will rise and be alive forevermore. Verse 24, *Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.* When the end of this world comes, and He has finished and completed what He wanted, man's labor of power, authority, and arrogance will all be put down. All sin will be broken. Verse 25, *For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.* Jesus must reign through His people. If you're a born again Christian you will see in this chapter that we as Christians should be putting satan under our feet so he no longer has the power to affect us. We love the kingdom of God and hate satan and his world. Verse 26, *The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.* When Christ comes back He's going to defeat satan and hell will be thrown into the lake of fire and it will be gone. Verse 27, *For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.* When Jesus came and rose from the grave all of satan's powers were put under Jesus' feet. According to the book of John, He will come and live in us, and if He comes to live in us then we have the power to put satan and the world under our feet, if we want it. But it's extremely hard. The more you've given over to satan the harder it is, but all things are possible through Christ Jesus. You can't just think that someday somehow it's going to happen. You have to believe that He is in you. You believe because you can feel His work in you. You are now the temple and when He is in you, you can put all things under your feet. He won't come back until all things are subdued.

John the Baptist went out in the wilderness and stayed away from man. He ate locusts and wild honey. It wasn't touched by man therefore it wasn't polluted. He stayed away until the things in him began to die and when the world died in him, he came to the Jordan and began to baptize and preach about Jesus. When Jesus came John had the right to baptize him because he hated the world. His acts to Jesus were pure. In the Old Testament the prophets went into the mountains where people weren't and stayed away from them. That still works today. If God wants to raise up someone that is mighty upon the earth, He won't put them in the middle of the city somewhere where it's full of hell. He takes them in the wilderness so they can get rid of the world. You know as well as I do that when God put you in the wilderness and you came back and looked at what you had before you say how in the world could I stand that? It's appalling to you and you have no desire to do what you used to do. When you were in your flesh, your flesh loved it, but your flesh will take you to hell. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.

Verse 28, *And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.* All principalities, all powers, and all authorities will be put under foot so they have no authority and nothing to say. What a glorious day. I can't even imagine how it will be. After Jesus purifies the earth by picking out those that want Him and destroying the rest, when it's all completed and back to the original state, He is going to give His authority back to the one that gave it so God can be ruler of all things. Do you know what that tells me? God must be a tremendously awesome God. We haven't even begun to think of what it can be like. But Jesus knew and He wanted to be under His authority. Verse 29, *Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead? And why stand we in jeopardy every hour? I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.* Paul said, the reason I have Christ in me is because I die every day. It's not me that churns it up. It's me that dies so that Christ can have His way and be exalted before the world. So don't praise me too highly because I have Christ in me, because you should have Him in you too. When I was first being drawn to the Lord I used to hear everyone talk about the anointing. Everybody wanted the anointing. But all you have to do is die and want Christ and believe in Him and you will have it. Verse 32, *If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? Let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die. Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame. But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die.* Paul brings in the conversation that it's like a kernel of corn you put in the ground. If that kernel of corn doesn't sprout it will just rot. Many people today that

think they are saved are just rotting because they never died that they might be quickened. They brought the world with them and they loved the world. It's the poor in spirit that will get it because those that are poor in spirit hate what they have and want Christ in them. Then there is a sprout that comes and pushes out the world and in your being grows the righteousness of Christ. If that doesn't happen you're not saved. You have to be quickened. Jesus said few there be that make it. That's why. If you don't die you aren't quickened to produce fruit. That which produces fruit has to die before it can be raised to bear your fruit: Christ in you. Verse 37, *And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:* Whatever you sow in you, it's going to bear the fruit of what you sowed in you. If you sowed sin in you, sin is going to keep growing in you. If you plant a kernel of corn, you're going to get an ear of corn. The laws of God's creation are more obedient than the human being that He placed to take care of it. David said God created all of the creation and it still stayed to this day. Verse 38, *But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.* God gives it a body, that is, wheat, corn, or whatever it is. That's why it's difficult to judge a man. He made one person to be a certain thing and He's made you to be another thing, but both are still from the same spirit that brings unity. Verse 39, *All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.* Terrestrial bodies are earthy and celestial are heavenly. Your original body is terrestrial but if you are born again into the kingdom of God you are a celestial body which is living in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus. Verse 41, *There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.* If we are born again, we are raised incorruptible. John said if you are born again you cannot keep sinning. Glory is might. The power of God is in God's glory so that the wickedness of this world cannot permeate the glory of God. It can't stand it. It has to run from it. That's what might is. It's different than power. Verse 44, *It is sown a natural body;* Our natural body is sown in the ground and dies. Then Christ quickens it, or makes it sprout, and you are born again into a new place. *It is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul;* That's the natural terrestrial body; the man with the clay body. *...the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.* He wasn't a body anymore, He was a spirit. So when we worship and edify Him we must do it in spirit and truth. If you haven't died and been quickened, God can't hear your singing or anything you do because you're not one of His. He made a body of clay, He breathed into it the breath of God, and the two together made a living soul, which is a recorder of what the spirit and clay body will do in their lifetime. It's all recorded in the soul, and the soul exists after death. The spirit of life goes back to the One that sent it and the clay goes back to the dust of the ground and the only thing that's left is your soul. Jesus came to save the soul. Verse 46, *Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.* Adam was not spiritual. From Adam to Jesus everybody was a natural human being. But when Jesus rose from the dead He gave us power to be spirit beings in the heavenlies. Our bodies cannot go in the heavenlies because they were made to stay on the earth. He made us a quickening spirit that doesn't have a clay body so it can go into the heavenlies and eventually live forever where God is. We're halfway there when we are in the kingdom of God because we are now spirit beings and physical beings. But one day the physical being will be shed and we will be like God and Christ. Verse 47, *The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.* If we are born again we have that heavenly nature. For those that think that they can just be baptized or say a few words and then go back out in the world and do what they want, they're wrong. They will never make it. That is satanic teaching and it's all over the world. Verse 50, *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;* That means no matter what you do, how godly you think you are, you cannot get to heaven by your righteousness because it's polluted. The only thing that will unpollute you is Christ living in you, Who overcame and has the enemy under His feet. As soon as there are enough people that God wants to be in eternity with Him He will come back because the enemy will be subdued. *...Neither doth corruption inherit*

incorruption. I'm going to be corrupt for a while, I'm going to be in the world for a while, and then when I'm about ready to die I will get saved. Wrong. That's a statement that goes to hell. If you can't give your life to the Lord when you're young, it's much harder for God to change you when you are old. The older you get, the more you are set in your ways and it's harder to change. People get set in their ways and think it's alright but it isn't. But as soon as you can see what you're doing that's not yet what He wants then you can change quickly.

Verse 51, *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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.* If everybody is going to heaven right away when they die, who is going to be raised out of the dead? I don't know where that teaching got started but it's a wrong teaching. When someone dies they go to a resting place. Samuel was a godly man and Saul stirred Samuel out of his resting place. Samuel was sleeping but he came up and said, Saul, what do you want? I'm tired. Can't you see I'm resting? Saul said, I need to know what's going to happen. Did Samuel say I've been sleeping I don't know what's going on? No, he knew exactly what was going to happen. So the dead shall be raised incorruptible, that is, removed all sin and have given eternal life. Not everlasting, this time it's eternal. You will be eternally forever with the Lord. Verse 53, *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.* Our body that is corruptible must put on incorruption. That means free of sin. Immortality means live forever, pure and clean, dedicated to our God. The Lord will take our hand and together we will walk into eternity forever because He is our Father and our Lord. Verse 54, *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.* We no longer will ever talk about death again. It will be wiped away because of what God the Father is going to put on His children that love Him. A spirit that will not be rebellious and a power of immortality that we will never die. When that takes place, then death is swallowed up and we have victory over death. That's what Jesus did by having all of it under His feet and we will have it under our feet as well. Verse 55, *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.* We can't get saved by the law. Verse 57, *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.* Hallelujah. What an awesome hope we have in God. Someday we won't have to face death, sin, wickedness, liars, thieves ever again. It will be removed from our thoughts. And all those that don't make it will never be known in our mind again. We won't know they ever existed. On the earth we have happiness but in eternity we have joy. There is a difference between being happy and having joy. Joy is eternal. Happiness is while you do it. So I don't want happiness, I want joy.