

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BOB

Living Victoriously!

In his Resurrection chapter, St. Paul writes: *“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.’ ‘O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 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.” (1Cor. 15:54-58)*

For the first Christians, the Resurrection was the defining moment. They knew for certain that death was not the end, but gave way to life. As a seed is sown and dies, so new life begins and bears many seeds. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, signified that God had accepted His sacrifice on the Cross for the sins of the whole world. **Sin can no longer sting the believer to eternal death.** The grave cannot hold the believer.

And as Jesus had asked, the first Christians gathered the first day of each week, the day of Resurrection, to remember and to proclaim this great truth: *“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” (1Cor. 11:26)* This was to be the new way in which Jesus lived among His people, His very body and blood taken into their body, living victoriously—one with Him while awaiting His return.

Consequently, the first Christians were *“steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.”* Strengthened by these precious gifts, of body and blood, they could not contain themselves as they shared the Good News of Jesus with others, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

The same is true for us today, as Paul explained earlier in the chapter, (v.14) *“if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.”* As modern day Christians, we too are defined by the Resurrection. We are Resurrection people! Living victoriously! Sin can no longer sting us to eternal death. The grave cannot hold us. Christ gives us the victory through faith. **That’s welcomed news when death threatens us or one of our loved ones.**

Therefore, we continue to gather on the first day of the week, as Jesus has asked us to do, *“to proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes,”* receiving His very body and blood into our body in victorious living, while awaiting His return.

Meanwhile, we thankfully respond to all He has done, always *“abounding in the work of the Lord.”* It is what Christians have done for some 2,000 years and will continue to do until the perishable ultimately puts on the imperishable.

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

In His Love and Mine, *Pastor Bob*