

# Death-Defying Ministry

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1 Corinthians 15:55-58

*54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O Death, where [is] your sting? O Hades, where [is] your victory?" 56 The sting of death [is] sin, and the strength 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 brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

- 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 NKJV

**Main Idea: Christ gives His people absolute victory over death, and His victory must produce His work in His people.**

*He (the Lord of Hosts) will swallow up death forever...*

- Isaiah 25:8 NKJV

## 1.) Christ Gives his People Absolute Victory Over Death. (V55-57)

*55 "O Death, where [is] your sting? O Hades, where [is] your victory?"*

*"I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. O Death, I will be your plagues! O Grave, I will be your destruction! Pity is hidden from My eyes."*

*Hosea 13:14 NKJV*

*Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from death? O Death, where are your thorns? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion will be hidden from My sight.*

*Hosea 13:14 NASB*

A.) The sting of death is sin. (v56a)

B.) The strength of sin is the law (v56b)

*7 What shall we say then? [Is] the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had*

*said, "You shall not covet." 8 But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all [manner of evil] desire. For apart from the law sin [was] dead.*

*Romans 7:7-8*

*10 And the commandment, which [was] to [bring] life, I found to [bring] death. 11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed [me].*

*- Romans 7:10-11*

C.) Christ is the Victor and the Giver.

*57 But thanks [be] to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*For He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

*(2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV)*

*Death is not merely destroyed so that it cannot do any further harm while all of the harm which it has wrought on God's children remains. The tornado is not merely checked so that no additional homes are wrecked while those that were wrecked still lie in ruin... Death and all its apparent victories are undone for God's children. What looks like a victory for death and like a defeat for us when our bodies die and decay shall be utterly reversed so that death dies in absolute defeat and our bodies live again in absolute victory.*

*-R. C. H. Lenski*

## **2.) Christ's Victory Must Produce his Work in his People. (V57A, 58)**

*58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

A.) Thank God (v57a)

B.) Be steadfast and immovable in resurrection hope (v58a)

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable...*

*that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,*

*(Ephesians 4:14)*

C.) Always abound in the work of the Lord (v58b)

*always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

*make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...*

*(Matthew 28:19-20)*