

The Easter Guarantee: How the Resurrection Assures Victory (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)

- There are not a whole of guarantees in this life that are sure bets, yet Paul in his final paragraph assures us of three profound guarantees. Because Jesus rose bodily from the dead, we can anticipate the greatest future anyone could ever imagine and even enjoy the promise of one great blessing in this life.

① Easter guarantees your physical body will be changed (15:50-52)

- Our present body is called *“flesh and blood”* and it *“cannot inherit the kingdom of God”* nor *“inherent the imperishable”* (v. 51). It is *“perishable”*. But our future body will be *“imperishable”*. It is glorified and will be dramatically *“changed”* (v. 51-52)
- This new bodily *“change”* (word used 2x in v. 51-52) will happen in two ways: a dead body resurrection (v. 42-44, v. 52 *“the dead will be raised”*) and a living body transformation (v. 51-52: *“we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed”*)
- This living body change was a *“mystery”* (formerly secret, but now revealed) and will happen instantaneously (v. 52: *“in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye”*)
- This *“change”* will reverse the effects of the curse (now an *“imperishable”* & *“immortal”* body) and will fit the new heavenly environment in which we will live.

② Easter guarantees your last enemy will be conquered (15:53-57)

- Dead will die and will no longer have its power over anyone. Paul uses clothing imagery (v. 53-54 – “put on”) to illustrate what *“must”* (v. 53) happen and what *“will”* (v. 54) happen to our bodies in the resurrection. Our present clothing (the *“perishable”* and *“mortal”*) *“must”* and *“will”* change to become *“imperishable”* and *“immortal”*
- Paul quotes two prophets that predicted the end of death (Isa. 25:8-9; Hosea 13:15). Death will be swallowed up in the victory that Jesus won over death by His resurrection. *“Sin”* led to death and its *“sting”* and the *“law”* exposed and magnified the *“power of sin”* in our lives as disobedient rebels (v. 56).
- But Jesus Christ gifts every believer with a big win (*“victory”*) because of what He accomplished on the cross as our substitute who paid for our sin debt and satisfied the righteous demands of God’s law.

③ Easter guarantees your ministry work will be credited (15:58)

- One of the big blessings that comes in this life is knowing that our service to the Lord and others really matters motivates us to work in a *“steadfast”* (be fixed or unwavering in purpose), *“immoveable”* (unshakeable and stubborn in our commitment), and *“always abounding in the work of the Lord”* (being faithful and over the top in our service). It will be hard work (the word *“toil”* means to labor to the point of exhaustion)
- Where’s the credit? *“knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord”*. God sees it, God knows all about it and He makes our ministry worth all the hard work because it is never *“in vain”*.