



11/5/25

Have you heard of the rope diagram? Imagine a rope that goes on forever and ever. And just the tip of the rope is covered in purple. That purple represents your life here on earth. All the rest is your life in heaven with Jesus. When you realize how tiny our life here on earth is compared to how long forever lasts with Him, does that change your perspective of your time on earth? My prayer is that it will change both yours and mine... so that we live with the hope of tomorrow... and go through this temporary time on earth with God's strength for each day. Wherever we are on that rope... our God will be with us every step of the way. Amen!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

How much would my attitude toward my circumstances change if I kept an eternal perspective? Outside of the circumstances, I say I want an eternal perspective. But my attitude about it is really tested when I face situations that I'd like to be different. A silly example... and yet a real example... is my back. I have been waking up with a sore back for months now, and it's due to extremely tight muscles in my legs that are pulling on my back. My doctor told me to back off running for ONE WEEK. He didn't even say not to run. He just said... do light jogs this week and no sprinting. In an eternal perspective, this does not matter in the least!!! But in the extreme temporary... one week... I want to ignore my doctor. Ugh! If I can't have an eternal perspective about something as little as this, how will I have an eternal perspective with the things that impact my soul? O Lord, please change my heart and mind so that they are fully set on You... and on the victory I have in You.

Here's my true hope...

Vs. 50 ~ "I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable." This temporary body of mine is just temporary! My sore back is not what's inheriting the imperishable kingdom of God. I am going to get a new, transformed body... that's like Jesus.

Even more importantly, all the treasures of this world are just temporary. They don't need to be my focus. This life on earth is just a breath. Life with God and all the treasures of heaven are forever.

Vs. 51-52 ~ "Behold! I tell 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 trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed." Check it out... this is a mystery. It can't be explained with plausible human arguments. I can't change myself, but I will BE changed. It will come in a moment. While I wait and wait for God's return, the moment will come when God the Father will say, "It's time." And the trumpet will sound. And then BAM! Everyone who has died will rise, not in bodies that can decay or have pain... but in glorified bodies. We will ALL be changed... just like that!

This is just like our salvation... Romans 6 says we're crucified with Christ... and raised to new life in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that because we're in Christ, we're a new creation. My salvation is a picture of what will be when the trumpet sounds. It's helping me look forward to the full realization of what's coming rather than being stuck in the brokenness of what is. The brokenness of this world is here because of sin, but it also serves as a constant reminder to me that this is not my home... and this is not all there is. When it comes, it will come quickly... in the twinkling of an eye.

Vs. 53 ~ "For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality." This perishable, decaying body MUST put on the imperishable. It isn't that it MIGHT. It MUST. It is NECESSARY. This is the gift of God. My mortal body MUST put on the immortal because I will live with the Lord forever... eating the delicacies of the tree of life. The transformation MUST take place and the transformation WILL take place because, if God has declared it, He will do it.

Vs. 54-55 ~ "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?'" When Adam ate the forbidden fruit, his rebellion against God brought death into the world... and death has affected every human being since. But death will be swallowed up because of Jesus' death and resurrection. Revelation 21:3-4 says, "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and DEATH SHALL BE NO MORE, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.'" The perishable will be raised imperishable. Death will no longer cause brokenness and suffering.

Satan thought he was nailing the coffin on God's love for man when Jesus died... as though love died... literally. But Satan became a servant to God's plan of redemption... and as I keep my eyes on the Lord and trust Him wholeheartedly with an eternal perspective... any plan of Satan to bring me down will only serve to make my faith stronger in the Lord.

Vs. 56-57 ~ "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."

"The sting of death is sin." With Adam and Eve's one tiny little choice, death was ushered into the world, and with it came the cancer of sin that just spreads and spreads.

"The power of sin is the law." Then the law came and only made sin more determined to deceive and destroy.

"BUT THANKS BE TO GOD..." Victory against the sting of death and sin does not and cannot come in my strength. But thanks be to God who GIVES us the victory. Through Jesus, God gives me salvation, mercy, grace, strength to stand firm, and eternal life in the imperishable and immortal... with my imperishable and immortal God and Father. This is not an IF, but a WHEN.

Vs. 58 ~ So what do I do with this hope I have in Jesus? "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." First know that all this generosity from the Lord is because He loves me. He doesn't resent loving me. He pours His love into my heart. The only thing that stops me from experiencing His love is me... when I choose to turn away from Him rather than stay

steadfast... when I waver in faith rather than hold fast to my immovable faith... when I give up rather than persevere in doing whatever the Lord calls me to do. O Lord Jesus, You remained steadfast even to death. You were immovable, even when that put You on the cross. You abounded in the work of Your Father throughout Your ministry on earth and You continue to work even now from Your throne. Your labor was definitely not in vain. You broke the curse of sin and death! I pray that I will follow Your example. I pray that I will completely trust that all Your promises are Yes and Amen. Because I trust You, I pray that I will endure every trial, both the big and the small, with faith and joy. Let me never be moved from my stand with You. Let me thrive in doing whatever You've called me to do. I know that nothing I ever do for You in obedience to You is ever wasted. Amen!!!