

All Bad Things Must Come To An End – 1 Corinthians 15:35-52 - Bill Limmer

Have you heard the expression all good things must come to an end? We have been conditioned to believe that, right? We are at work. It has been a great week. A lot is being accomplished. Everybody is getting along and . . . then the boss walks in with a piece of paper in her hands. Maybe it is a big issue, maybe it is a little issue but all things must come to an end. Or we go on vacation, maybe it is to the mountains, or Door County, or a beach. We are enjoying the scenery relaxing, de-stressing. And then we realize, I have to pack up in a day because all good things must come to an end. Or worse we are on the same vacation, and there is a phone call alerting us to a family emergency – all good things must come to an end. The problem is not good things coming to an end it is the bad things always there. At best the bad is waiting for you, and at worse it is engaging you in the battle. The battle with bad things never ends. By nature, the default system is bad. Our default system is sin. Those of us who are parents and grandparents know that we don't have to teach our children or grandchildren not to share. They have the whole stinginess thing down. They are stingy by nature. And the bad is always there. I mean we share but look at all the stuff we have. The cosmetic industry in the United States is expected to be sixty-two-billion-dollar industry this year. The industry is banking on us waking up tomorrow morning and not liking the way we look, so we have to cover up the bad. All bad things must come to an end. But is the same thing the next morning. Most of you know that I work out quite a bit. Actually I run quite a bit. I am much more into fitness than I am in to cosmetics. The fitness industry is about a thirty-billion-dollar industry. The fitness industry is banking 30 billion dollars on me looking into the mirror and going "this shape has to come to an end." And so I run and work out and for me it paid off. **(picture of me giving the appearance of lifting-up the truck)**. But if we stop working out or even if we don't as we age things start to go south on us. There is a time when we start to decline. Bad always just around the corner. But I want you to know for Christ followers all bad things must come to an end. Today in church history is Saints Triumphant Day. It directs our focus away from the earthly to the heavenly where all bad things have come to an end.

As we turn to God's Word we find that there were some back in Paul's day and there are some in our day who do not believe in the resurrection. There were a lot of people back in Paul's day that thought all good things must come to an end. Eat drink be merry. He who dies with the most toys wins because all good things must come to an end. People scoffed at what kind of body they would have if there were a resurrection. For a 1 Corinthians 15:35-44 Paul says: **With what kind of body will they come?"** ³⁶ **How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.** ³⁷ **When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else.** ³⁸ **But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.** ³⁹ **Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another.** ⁴⁰ **There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another.** ⁴¹ **The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.** ⁴² **So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable;** ⁴³ **it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;** ⁴⁴ **it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.** Bringing a dead person back to life was impossible or so they thought. It was on the list of impossible things to do along with drink all the water in the Pacific Ocean and licking your elbow. Come on now, I know some of you want to try it – so go ahead. (I know that those of you who didn't try it, will likely try it when you get home.) 1 Corinthians 15:35 **"But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? They couldn't understand how the resurrection would take place. And because they couldn't understand the manner of the resurrection they denied**

the fact. But everyone who has planted a garden has the answer. The seed that is in the ground dies, yet its death results in a new life. In fact, it will not produce new life unless it dies first. Nature demonstrates not only that life can follow death but also that the life that follows death can be different and wonderful. Who of you who planted green beans this past spring were expecting just one seed to be produced. Not a chance, you were expecting a plant with bean pods all on it. Right? About six months ago all across Wisconsin, farmers planted kernels of corn one at a time. What farmer would plant a seed of corn expecting only a seed of corn in return. The expectation is that there will be an ear or two of corn filled with tasting kernels of corn for each seed! Jesus also shared the same thought when he said: **Johns 12:24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.** Paul is saying don't let this resurrection thing blow your mind you see a glimpse of it all of the time!

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. ⁵⁰ I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

Our natural bodies have been corrupted and infected with sin. And that is why we keep running into bad things. Do you know anyone who skinned a knee? Needed stitches? Broke a bone? Needed surgery? Me too. Do you know of anyone who needs corrective lens so they can see well? Me too. Have you ever known anyone with a heart ailment? Me too. Have you ever known anyone with diabetes? Me too. Have you ever known anyone with cancer? Me too. Have you ever known anyone who was filled with grief at the loss of a relationship or loved one? Me too. Our bodies will die (unless Jesus comes back first).

1 Corinthians 15:54-56 **When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."** ⁵⁵ **"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"** ⁵⁶ **The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.**

All bad things must come to an end. Death has destroyed the mightiest of men and women. It has broken into every home and has taken its toll on every human family. It has robbed every one of its victims of all his or her earthly possessions. It has filled the world tears and groans. It has inflicted pain on even the greatest of God's saints. There is no masking its ugliness nor wishing away its horrific power. Despite all the medical advancements against disease and injury the human race still has no weapon, no vaccine, no surgery to ward off the cruel and ugly monster of death.

Our body that is placed into the ground in weakness can't do anything. Our body is weak, devoid of all strength and power as it is placed into ground. But our bodies will be resurrected too. We aren't talking zombies with body parts dangling. We aren't talking about the walking dead, nor Michael Jackson's thriller. We aren't talking about life as the same as it is now with all the weaknesses, weariness, and disabilities just in a different location. The life to come will not

be a rerun of this mortal life. It will be a glorified life. It will be perfect like back before our original parents fell into sin. There will be no more crying or pain, no more suffering and disease, no more death, and no more sin. When we are resurrected, a great church reformer said, (our body) will be so strong that with one finger it will be able to life up this ministry center . . . and play with a mountain as children play with a ball. The corruptible will become incorruptible. The dishonor will be changed to glory. Weakness will become powerful. The natural will become spiritual!

Because all bad things must to an end. Death, you see, must yield to the LORD of Lords. The King of kings has conquered the king of terrors. **Jesus has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.** (2 Timothy 1:10) For all of God's children the apparent victories of death are undone. The death that appeared to conquer and to doom our bodies to decay will know it's complete defeat in the resurrection as God break's death chains and our bodies will be determined to be imperishable and immortal. **"Where O Death is your sting." The sting of death is sin.** When we fell into sin, we became death's victim. There is only one way to undo death's fatal work - to nullify the sin that places the sinner into its power. Take sin away, and death is harmless. Take away that sin and cancels its guilt by having someone else suffer its sting in the sinner's stead, and death can no longer claim the sinner as its victim. This is the mighty, the wonderful, the merciful, the gracious act that Jesus did for us. Hebrews 10:12 **But when the priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.** With the penalty for human sin paid by the sinner's substitute, the sinner escapes sin's deadly sting. In the resurrection, the believers victory over death is complete.

1 Corinthians 15:57,58, **Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.** Therefore, what a powerful word. Therefore, Jesus is the key to all bad things coming to an end. Because Jesus came victoriously out of the grave, he is found to be the defeater of sin that held us in captive to sin and death. Because he lives, we too will live. It is why we live as Christians, not only believe as Christians. Because Christ rose from the grave, we too will rise from the grave. Faith knows the impossible has been done, faith that the dead come back to life makes us strong in our conviction. We don't just believe it. We defend it. We proclaim it. Because we have so much to give, we have so much to do. Our incentive is the assurance: Knowing that your toil in the Lord is not in vain. It is not our job to convert; it is our privilege to proclaim that all bad things must come to an end through Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

Where Jesus will **"bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. Isaiah 61:3** When we are resurrected we will have the body, mind and spirit, that we will always wanted. You and I will be able to say to God "I love you," with an undivided heart. We will receive his love the way he has always wanted us to receive his love. NT Wright said, Sin makes us less human. We were made in God's image. Sin takes us away from that. When we walk with Jesus and obey his commands we become more human. You see all bad things must come to an end.

At my small group this past Wednesday we talked about the anacronym ALIVE. Since all bad things must come to an end be **ALIVE Always Live In View of Eternity** and when we do that we see that all bad things must come to an end.