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TOPICS: Easter; Eternal Life; Living in Christ

LEAD-IN: "Where, O death is your victory? Where O death, is your sting?" Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:55, 57, NIV)

## LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

## The Meaning of the Resurrection

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes. (Job 19:25-27, NIV)

*Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep... For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.* (1 Corinthians 15:20-22, NIV)

Because I live, you also will live. (John 14:19, NIV)

Someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed. So it will be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—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 all be changed. 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". "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore my brothers, 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. (1Corinthians 15:35, 37, 42-44, 51-52, 54-55, 57-58, NIV)

If we simply trust Christ, death is no longer our destination. Jesus Christ has risen from the dead, and we are following where He is leading: into new life, with new bodies, in the very presence of the Father, permeated with the eternal glory of a holy God.

This new life has already begun. The fellowship you now enjoy with the Living Christ will go on unbroken forever. You are in His presence, and You will walk with Him throughout eternity. We are right now growing into "all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:19). He has already begun doing within us "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (3:20).

For the believer, the truth is beautiful. Reality is wonderful beyond description. Praise Him! Rejoice in His goodness and His love! Every day is Easter for the child of God.

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