

## Home group Notes – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

### 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Ice Breaker

On Sunday Andy started by reading from the very hungry caterpillar – do you have a favourite childhood story?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Paul reminds us that we are ‘flesh and blood’ and ‘perishable’. What reminds you that we are mortal and we will not just go on living like this forever?

Why do you think people avoid talking or thinking about death? Whether it’s writing a will, making a funeral plan, or taking our life insurance – they are all things many would prefer to avoid!

Spend some time working through this passage together bringing out all the hope it gives us for the future and a resurrection life after death. Remembering that we are talking about a mystery (v51), so we will have unanswered questions, but we can seek to understand what Paul describes here.

On Sunday Andy highlighted the ‘Then’ in the middle of verse 54:

*...then the saying that is written will come true: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’*

There are times when we continue to feel the sting of death today. 1 Corinthians 15:26 describes death as ‘The last enemy to be destroyed’. Are there those in the group who have particularly felt, or feel this sting? It’s appropriate to recognise the pain of death, and also declare v57:

*<sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

It may be appropriate to spend some time in prayer for those who are mourning.

The final verse (58) feels like it changes gear from the rest of the passage. Here Paul brings a strong application to all he’s been saying. Why do you think this is important?

Understanding our hope of a resurrection to eternal life, what does it mean for you to ‘Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord’? How will you go about that this week?

Finally – pray – with the confidence that ‘your labour in the Lord is not in vain.’