

Death and Victory

Description

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1 Corinthians 15:42-57

Death and victory together? We can perhaps all recall a heroic death. After all, Jesus himself said, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). We give rightful honor to those who give their lives while protecting or attempting to save others. In the heroes' death pain and admiration mingle to produce a noble ideal. We all hope that, should the test come, we would meet it with the same courage.

In the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, however, "Death has been swallowed up in victory" (1 Corinthians 15:54). Since mankind's first sin in the Garden of Eden, death has reigned. It remains a certain and painfully sad reality of life. Now, however, for those of us with hope in Jesus Christ it has been swallowed up in a greater reality: the vast love and everlasting life embodied in our risen Lord.

Mortal death will remain until Christ returns, but for those of us who wait expectantly for that day it has lost its sting and power.

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Date Created

06/30/2016