

Series	On Earth As It Is in Heaven
Bible	Revelation 21:4, 1 Corinthians 15:12-58
Title/Topic	Death, Where is Your Sting?
Overview	In today’s culture, we often run from discussions about death. When we receive word that someone we love has died (or has been diagnosed with a terminal illness), we understandably tend to respond with grief and discouragement. However, based on what Revelation 21:4 tells us, we can look at death as Christians and say with a smirk, “Death, Where is Your Sting?”
Scripture Breakdown	<p>Main Point: Because of heaven, we don’t need to fear death (Rev. 21:4).</p> <p>REASONS WE DON’T HAVE TO FEAR DEATH (1 Cor. 15:12-58):</p> <p>1) Christ has already beaten death for us (v.22-23).</p> <p>We don’t have to fear death as something that is still waiting to be conquered. While we still face death because we live in a fallen world, Christ has already beaten death on our behalf when he showed his power over death at his resurrection.</p> <p>Revelation 21:4 tells us where things are heading—death will be no more. Christ’s work on the cross and his resurrection of the dead are the initial fulfillment of this reality.</p> <p>2. We will be resurrected with new bodies (v.35-49).</p> <p>Imagine bodies without achy joints and sore muscles. Imagine bodies that never break down. Imagine bodies that are as vibrant 50 years from now (or more) as they are today. This is what v.35-49 tells us we will be given.</p> <p>Notice the gardening language that Paul uses. For now, the bodies we have are perishable. But when we sow our perishable bodies in the ground (what happens at death), we are planting our bodies as a seed that will be raised imperishable (not subject to decay, wear and tear, and death). In other words, death for the Christian is how we shed our perishable bodies for imperishable bodies. All of this will be fulfilled when Christ returns. We will have glorified bodies just like Christ has. Aches and pains will be things of the past.</p> <p>3. Death has a temporary sting (v.54-57).</p> <p>The process of physically dying (which we’re all in, regardless of age) comes with pain. While in our day we have various ways to relieve pain,</p>

	<p>our bodies don't work as well as they used to, and we feel the pains associated with this truth every day. For some, this pain is more intense, while for others, this pain is a more tolerable nuisance that reminds them of what is coming at some point in the future. For some, the time right before death will be agonizing and somewhat elongated due to sickness and disease, while for others the actual moment of death will be come quickly.</p> <p>But Scripture reminds us that this sting of death (including the process leading up to it) is temporary. It is so temporary that, when we are able to look back on it, we will rejoice and mock death by saying to it, "Where is Your Sting" (v.55).</p> <p><i>[Supporting Texts: Philippians 1:21; Psalm 23:1,4; 2 Timothy 4:7,18; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Cor. 4:16-5:5,17]</i></p>
Gospel	<p>Jesus beat death for us and offers us new life in him. If we surrender to him as our Lord and Savior, these promises are ours to enjoy. With all the hope that Christ offers you, why would you not accept him today?</p>
Next Steps	<p>In what ways does your fear of death need to be put in its place based on what these passages teach us? Who can you share these promises with in your life so that they don't need to fear death anymore?</p>

If you have any questions or need assistance, you can email me at jasonp@newlifechicago.org.