

LOOKING BEYOND AND ABOVE

By Bill Pugh

Every day we are confronted with tragic statistics enumerating the human cost of the COVID pandemic. How we long for a cure. How we reach out to hearts broken by personal loss and grief. How can we look beyond and above?

Paul suffered much in his lifetime – shipwreck, imprisonment, in danger from wild animals, loss of friends, persecution and death of martyrs for faith. How did he survive persecution, abuse, physical suffering from his ‘thorn in the flesh’ and abuse by the religious and Roman authorities?

It was because he had met the Risen Lord on the Damascus Road and believed he was the Son of God.

He was sure there is life beyond and above. And he proclaimed his faith in his letter to the Corinthians. He put his answer in a gospel poem or song of faith, which says it all. In Chapter 15 we find these triumphant words. “Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishable and this mortal body must put on immortality ... But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15: 51–54, 57)

Reflection:

At some point, spend time reading and discussing 1 Corinthians 15.

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