



[guardrails] "Crossing the Finish Line" Pastor Bob Botsford

Main Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Referenced Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17, Isaiah 42:6-9, Ecclesiastes 3:11, 2 Peter 3:10-13, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 2 Corinthians 5:8, Jeremiah 3:33, Philippians 1:21, Romans 6:1-14, Revelation 21:1-8

OPEN:

1. What in particular spoke to you from Pastor Bob's message?
2. How have you been confused about heaven, hell, and eternity in the past?

DIG DEEPER:

1. What was Paul's point in **1 Corinthians 15:50**? How does **Luke 24:39** help to clarify the significance of v.50?
2. Scripture provides much insight into what awaits us when we "cross the finish line" and enter heaven by the use of the term "new". In what way do **2 Corinthians 5:17** and **Isaiah 42:6-9** describe "new" as "never been," **Ecclesiastes 3:11** describe "new" as "yet familiar", and **2 Peter 3:10-13** indicate "new" to mean "greater in quality"? How does this encourage you about what awaits you in heaven?
3. Describe in detail "the rapture", which is described in **1 Corinthians 15:51-52** and **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**. What is the significance of the rapture for the true Christian?
4. Paul gives us our marching orders of how we are to live before we "cross the finish line" into heaven in **1 Corinthians 15:58**. How can we apply into our lives the ideas of being steadfast, immovable, and abounding?
5. Both **1 Corinthians 15:58** and **Romans 6:1-14** tells us that the power of the resurrection means we are no longer under the law, Jesus conquered sin and death. Explain.
6. What does **Revelation 21:1-7** tell us about what awaits the true Christian in heaven? What does **21:8** tell us awaits the unbeliever? If the Word of God is, in fact, our source of authority and truth, how then should we be living our lives in response to a Savior who would take our place and die on a cross for us?

REFLECT:

1. What has the Lord shown you about His amazing grace through Pastor Bob's message and this study about "crossing the finish line"?
2. How does the familiar cliché "*It is not how you start, rather how you finish.*" take on a whole new meaning to you now? How will your understanding about heaven and eternity be translated into the way you live, and what you are living for?

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Corinthians 15:58

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

