



**Introduction:**

- The Mysteries of Life

**The Future is Love...**

<sup>8</sup> All the special gifts and powers from God will someday come to an end, but love goes on forever. Someday prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge—these gifts will disappear. <sup>9</sup> Now we know so little, even with our special gifts, and the preaching of those most gifted is still so poor. <sup>10</sup> But when we have been made perfect and complete, then the need for these inadequate special gifts will come to an end, and they will disappear. <sup>11</sup> It's like this: when I was a child I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does. But when I became a man my thoughts grew far beyond those of my childhood, and now I have put away the childish things. <sup>12</sup> In the same way, we can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at his reflection in a poor mirror; but someday we are going to see him in his completeness, face-to-face. Now all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now. <sup>13</sup> There are three things that remain—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love. – 1 Corinthians 13:8-13 (TLB)

**From Perishable to Imperishable...**

<sup>50</sup> I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— <sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup> “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. – 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 (NIV)

**Resurrection Power: Make Love Your Aim...**

<sup>13</sup> This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. <sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. – 1 John 4:13-16

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“Love is God’s river, flowing on into the future, across the border into the country where there is no pride, jostling for position, no contention among God’s people. We are invited to step into that river here and now, and let it take us where it is going.” – Tom Wright, *Paul for Everyone*

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