

One day all those who have believed in Jesus Christ will hear a trumpet sound ...

These things will happen when that trumpet sounds ...

1. When the trumpet sounds we shall all be changed—old to new in an instant. And in that precise moment which the Bible calls the twinkling of an eye, we become immortal.
2. We will see Christ, and as soon as we see him, we will instantly be like him in our new creation bodies that God himself has chosen for us.

A plausible scenario ...

If you were dead in the ground at this time, your old body was like a seed that had been planted waiting for your resurrection. God will take the seed that was planted and instantly you will be transformed into an amazing supernatural being fit for heaven.

You were sown in dishonor. Think sin and death, as in wasting away, decay, maggots, worms, etc. But now at the sound of the trumpet you are raised to his glory.

You may remember how weak you were when your body gave up, and the nice men came and took you over to 217 E Depot Street in Colchester—better known to you as Jones Mortuary. Possibly cancer finished you off or maybe just old age. You were so weak that you couldn't get around; not even with your walker. Too weak to visit with those you love; too weak to even eat. So you died and after Pastor Dave gave you a real nice funeral service—that is if he has not already yet been planted in the

ground on the north end of Colchester—that body was sown in weakness. But when you hear the trumpet ... my, oh, my ... you are raised in power—the very same power with which God raised Christ from the dead.

So why, and even how, has all of this happened?

Because of what Christ has done—he died for our sins and was raised from the dead on the third day. And because of what Christ will do—he will resurrect believers to life.

- (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

Christ comes to Earth and dies for our sins.

Christ returns to Earth and defeats his enemies.

BACK TO OUR RESURRECTION ...

Christ will resurrect those who have trusted in him.

Victory proclamation.

- (1 Corinthians 15:55-57) “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

And then we come to our “therefore” ... our CONCLUSION ...

- (1 Corinthians 15:58) Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Because of what Christ has done for us through his resurrection, and what he will do for us through our resurrection ... We are to be steadfast ... settled, firm ... We are to be immovable ... not to be moved from our place, unmoved ... firmly persistent ... We are to be abounding ... exceeding, overflowing, excelling, in full bloom ... in the work of the Lord.

Work until we can work no more because our labor is not in vain.

- (Hebrews 6:10–11 ESV) For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.

One day the silver cord will be snapped, the golden bowl will be broken and our dust will return to the earth. We are dust and will return to the dust.

But in the meantime ... before the maggots and the worms take over ... as we wait for that trumpet to sound ...

We work. We stand firm in the gospel. We wait with joyful expectancy for the appearing of our Lord and King.

Robert Candlish shares these thoughts ... Be ye then steadfast, that ye may be immovable. Be steadfast in the belief of the resurrection of the body, having a well-grounded and deeply-rooted conviction of the truth, and a strong sense of the importance of the doctrine. For it is your sense of its importance that must make you steadfast. It is that which will lead you, when you have thoroughly satisfied yourself as to its truth, to be very firm and very tenacious in keeping hold of it.

If the matter at issue were some merely speculative and theoretical point of inquiry,—if it were some minute and subtle question about the mode or manner of the future life,—you could afford to sit loose to it, and treat it lightly, as one of those curious and debatable subjects in regard to which much may be said on both sides, and in regard to which it does not matter much which side you take. But the resurrection of the dead is not a topic of that sort. ... It is not such a piece of current news, or idle gossip, as one listens to with interest or amusement for a moment, but without caring to investigate, or verify, or retain it. [Candlish, R. S. (1858). *Life in a Risen Savior* (pp. 326–327). Edinburgh: Adam and Charles Black.]