

<sup>[51]</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>[52]</sup> 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 shall be changed. <sup>[53]</sup> For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. <sup>[54]</sup> But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory." <sup>[55]</sup> "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

[1 Corinthians 15:51-55]

These verses are on my mind and heart because last week I was called upon to oversee the funeral of a dearly beloved brother in Christ. This event reminded me of the *MYSTERY of DEATH, RESURRECTION, and the FUTURE LIFE.*

Before we look at Today's introductory passage, consider the verses preceding it in 1 Corinthians 15:35-50. In verse 35, someone asks the questions, "How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?" To this Paul is moved by the Holy Spirit in 15:36 to answer, "You foolish one! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies". Listen closely to what Paul is next moved to write in 15:37-38.

<sup>[37]</sup> and that which you sow, YOU DO NOT SOW THE BODY WHICH IS TO BE, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. <sup>[38]</sup> But God GIVES IT A BODY JUST AS HE DESIRES, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.

Then in 15:39 mention is made of the different types of "flesh". This is followed by a discussion of different types of bodies and their glory in 15:40-41.

<sup>[40]</sup> There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another. <sup>[41]</sup> There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

Then, understanding that speaking of those who are secure in Christ, the Spirit moves Paul to say in 15:42-44,

<sup>[42]</sup> So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body it is raised an IMPERISHABLE body; <sup>[43]</sup> it is sown in dishonor, it is raised IN GLORY; it is sown in weakness, it is raised IN POWER; <sup>[44]</sup> it is sown a natural body, it is raised a SPIRITUAL BODY. If there is a natural body, THERE IS ALSO A SPIRITUAL BODY.

In 1 Corinthians 15:45 we learn,

"The first man, Adam, became a living soul.' The last Adam (Jesus) became a life-giving spirit."

Are you listening? Please listen closely to what we are taught in 15:46 which says,

<sup>[46]</sup> However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. ... <sup>[49]</sup> And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. <sup>[50]</sup> Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Now we come to the verses of Today's introductory passage. The Holy Spirit begins by moving Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 to say he is going to "tell" us "a MYSTERY". This MYSTERY is,

<sup>[51]</sup> ... we shall not all sleep, but we SHALL BE CHANGED..."

That is both the dead and the living will be CHANGED.

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<sup>[52]</sup> *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 SHALL BE CHANGED.* <sup>[53]</sup> *For this perishable MUST PUT ON THE IMPERISHABLE, and this mortal MUST PUT ON IMMORTALITY.*

I need to ask you, what is your relationship with Christ? If you were to die tonight, today, do you know without a doubt where you would spend eternity? Would you spend eternity in eternal life or eternal judgement? It is only in Christ that the words of 1 Corinthians 15:54-55 will ring true,

<sup>[54]</sup> *But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY."* <sup>[55]</sup> *"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"*

Lord willing, I hope that you will join me here tomorrow to look at the *MYSTERY* of *GODLINESS* in the Union of Christ with His Church.

Will you please pray with me in a closing prayer?

Father, I praise You and give You thanks that You, through Your servant Paul teach the truths in this mystery of death and what will take place to raise us up to be with You and Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior on the day the trumpet sounds for us to come forth! I pray for myself and those who are praying this prayer with me today that You would strongly convict us of these truths. I also ask you to convict us that we know not the day nor the hour, so let us meditate and accept these truths as You have written them. I pray and ask for these blessings in the power and authority of the name of Jesus. Amen.

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** promising in His Word to never leave you or forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8]!

*BECAUSE I HAVE HOPE OF BEING RAISED UP AND CHANGED!* – tom!