

L144 | I Corinthians | A Mystery - From Earthy to Heavenly in a Moment | I Cor. 15:50-58

I. Intro/Review:

- The Image of the Heavenly
 - Sown - raised
 1. Corruption - Incorruption
 2. Dishonour - Glory
 3. Weakness - Power
 4. Natural - Spirit
 - Natural - Spiritual
 - First man Adam (living soul) - last Adam (quickening spirit)
 - Natural first - Spiritual second
 - First man (earthy) - second man (Lord from heaven)
 - Borne the image of earthy - will bear the image of the heavenly

II. Preview:

1. Flesh and Blood Cannot Inherit the Kingdom of God (v50-54)
2. Death and the Grave | The Sting of Death and the Strength of Sin (v55-56)
3. Victory - Always Abound in the Work of the Lord (v57-58)

III. Sermon:

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.
{1 Corinthians 15:50}

1. **Flesh and Blood Cannot Inherit the Kingdom of God (v50-54)**

- **"Now this I say, brethren"**
 - In view of v49, "we shall also bear the image of the heavenly"
 - Question in view of 1) sown, 2) die, 3) quickened (1 Cor. 15:36)
- **"that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God"**
 - How can you "bear the image of the heavenly" when you have the "earthy" (flesh and blood)?
 - "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God"
 - Future inheritance in effect after death and in the resurrection

- **"neither doth corruption inherit incorruption."**

- Corruption is exactly what we have been "sown in" (1 Cor. 15:42)

- **Summary** - Laying down how the dead are raised, specifically those that will be made alive in Christ, Paul states not only a review of what he previously argued, but state the dilemma for those that are yet still living - those alive but "sown in corruption".

- What if they are alive at "the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ"?
- What happens to them?

**Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
{1 Corinthians 15:51}**

- **"Behold"** - to gaze, to take into consideration with the eyes of your understanding

- **"I shew you a mystery;"**

- This is not "the mystery of Christ"
- This is "a mystery" revealed in the dispensation of grace concerning resurrection for those that are in Christ and yet alive "at His coming".

- Rom. 11:25 - "this mystery"
- 1 Cor. 2:7 - "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom"
- 1 Cor. 4:4 - "stewards of the mysteries"
- Eph. 1:9 - "having made known unto us the mystery of His will"
- Eph. 5:32 - "This is a great mystery:"

- A mystery is something that was "hidden" or "secret" before it is revealed.

- 1 Cor. 2:9
 1. Not something the "eye hath seen"
 2. Not something the "ear heard"
 3. Not something that "entered into the heart of man"

- Something that God purposed in Himself and has progressively revealed - thus revealing "a mystery", or "this mystery", or "the mystery of Christ", etc.

- All mysteries have to do with what He hath prepared in Christ for those that love Him!

- Substance of "a mystery"

1. Has something to do with resurrection
2. Has something to do with bear the image of the heavenly
3. Has something to do with flesh and blood not inheriting the kingdom of God

- **"We shall not all sleep"**

1. Declarative statement

2. "we" those in Christ
3. Paul includes himself
4. Paul thinking he may not sleep
5. Paul and the Corinthians "shall not all sleep" - physically die
6. There will be a "we" that will not sleep

- **"but we shall all be changed"**

1. We know those that sleep will be resurrected (1) sown, 2) die, 3) quickened
2. Yet, not all will sleep
3. "but" - adverse
4. "we shall all be changed" - even those living will not inherit corruption, but be changed
5. Those alive will be quickened!
6. Php. 3:20-21

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

{1 Corinthians 15:52}

- Duration of "a mystery" that Paul is shewing (revealing)

- **"in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,"**

- Quickened - 1 Cor. 15:45
- A decisive, definite point in time; The most minute and indivisible part of time; an instant
- Blink of an eye?

- Timing of "a mystery"

- **"at the last trump"** - the timing of the change for those alive

- At Christ's coming (1 Cor. 1)
- **"for the trumpet shall sound"** - sound of the trumpet is "the trump"

1. **"and the dead shall be raised incorruptible,"** - first trump
2. **"and we shall be changed."** - last trump

- Those "changed" will have the same effects of those that have already died. Those that have died have already died, they already have put off this corruptible and mortal.

- Those "changed" quickly "put off" and "put on"

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality.

{1 Corinthians 15:53}

- The Change

1. **"For this corruptible must put on incorruption"**
2. **"and this mortal must put on immortality."**

- 2 Tim. 1:8-10

**So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.
{1 Corinthians 15:54}**

- **"So when"** - identified by the following words
- **"this corruptible shall have put on incorruption,"** - you will know this happens, you will experience it
 - **"and this mortal shall have put on immortality,"**
- **"then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written,"**
 - Isa. 25:8
 - "Death is swallowed up in victory."
 - Swallows it up in victory before He finally defeats Death, the last enemy

**O death, where [is] thy sting? O grave, where [is] thy victory? The sting of death [is] sin; and the strength of sin [is] the law.
{1 Corinthians 15:55-56}**

2. Death and the Grave | The Sting of Death and the Strength of Sin (v55-56)

1. "O death, where is thy sting?"

- Answer - **"The sting of death is sin;"**
 - Received the forgiveness of sins
 - Body of sin has been destroyed - "dead to sin"
 - Upon death those in Adam will begin to experience "the sting of death" because of "sin"
- **"and the strength of sin is the law."**
 - Rom. 5 - "without strength", "offence may abound"
 - Rom. 7
- Deals with our enemies that are contrary to God (baptism into Christ's death, burial, and resurrection)
 - Sin - Rom. 6
 - Law - Rom. 7
 - Death and the grave

2. "O grave, where is thy victory?"

- The grave doesn't have victory over us

**But thanks [be] to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
{1 Corinthians 15:57}**

- **"But thanks be to God"** - why? Something given, something done, something will be done
- **"which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."**
 - Always you to physically die, but removes the sting of death
 - Always your body to go in the grave but He has victory over it by raising you from the dead

**Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.
{1 Corinthians 15:58}**

3. Victory - Always Abound in the Work of the Lord (v57-58)

- **"Therefore"** - conclusion of the victory and the conqueror we are and will be
 - 1 Cor. 3:21-23
- **"my beloved brethren"** - see how much you are loved (Rom. 8)
- **"be ye stedfast, unmoveable"** - Eph. 6
 - Where? In the inner man, in our understanding, fear, anxiety
- **"always abounding in the work of the Lord"**
 - Abound in the work of the Lord becomes it doesn't succumb to death, it doesn't end
- **"forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."**
 - That labor in the Lord isn't vain - it will abide forever just as the Lord will and us with Him

IV. Conclusion: