

Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. - 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

## I. A MYSTERY REVEALED

- Paul explains to his audience a mystery that is now revealed in the gospel:
  1. Flesh and blood (our carnal nature) cannot enter the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:21; Eph. 5:5-6).
  2. Perishable things do not inherit imperishable things (Rev. 21:22-27).
  3. Not everyone will die in this present age, but all (who belong to Christ) will be changed.
  4. This transformation will take place at the last trumpet, and it will be instantaneous (Isa. 27:13; Zech. 9:14; Matt. 24:29-31).
  5. The dead in Christ will be raised imperishable and will be changed (1 Thess. 4:13-18).
  6. Then shall the prophecies be fulfilled: Death reigns no more but is devoured by the victory of Jesus (Isa. 25:8; Hosea 13:14).
  7. Death reigned through sin and sin received its power from the law (Gen. 2:17, 3:3-4; Rom. 5:12-14, 6:23, 7:5-25; 1 Cor. 15:21-22).
  8. All glory to God! We are victorious in Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4; 2 Cor. 2:14).

## II. THEREFORE...

1. Be steadfast (Mark 13:9, 23, 33, 37).
2. Be immovable.
3. Be abounding in the work of the Lord (Eph. 2:10).
4. Be knowledgeable—your work in Christ matters.

**KNOW:** The second advent of Jesus will bring changes to our world and to us. That which is mortal will give way to that which is immortal, in the twinkling of an eye. Everything we know will be renewed for the better.

**DO:** Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

**Suggested Reading:**

*Heaven* by Randy Alcorn

(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

*Four Views on the End Times* by Timothy Paul Jones

(Available in the LifePoint Adult Library)

**For Children:**

*God Gave Us Heaven* by Lisa Bergren

(Available in the LifePoint Kid's Library)

**Next Week's Preaching Text:** 1 Corinthians 16:1-11

**Questions/Discovery Points for  
Life Groups/Families**

**Please Read I Corinthians 15:50-58**

1. What is Paul telling us?
2. Does what he tells us make logical sense?
3. What is the great mystery that Paul reveals to us?
4. What must happen in order for us to inherit God's kingdom?
5. What part do we have to play in any of this?
6. Where does death get its power? When that power is broken, what happens to death?
7. What should we be thankful for according to Paul?
8. Knowing this, what should we all do?