

First Corinthians 15:51-58  
Godward Resurrection part 6

<sup>51</sup> **Behold, I am telling you<sup>pl</sup> a mystery;—15:51-57**

- Mystery [*musterion*]*—*previously hidden and undiscoverable by human methods but now is being graciously revealed in God's perfect timing
- 1) Contrast—15:51-52
  - a) *on the one hand we will not **all** (emphatic) sleep,*
  - b) *but on the other hand we will **all** (emphatic) be transformed,*
    - i) How?
      - (1) <sup>52</sup> *in a moment* (smallest indivisible unit) [*atomos*],
      - (2) *in the blink* (fastest eye movement) *of an eye,*
      - (3) *in* (the sphere of) *the last trumpet* (often associated with the manifestation of God's presence; (cf. Exodus 19:13, 16; 20:18).
    - ii) Why?
      - (1) *For the trumpet will sound,*
      - (2) *and the dead will be raised incorruptible/undecayable,*
      - (3) *and we will be transformed.*
  - c) Other passages on the Rapture of the church include: John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:4; 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-17; 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:1; 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:14; James 5:8; 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:3-4
- 2) Necessary change—15:53 (What **must** take place?)
  - a) <sup>53</sup> *For this corruptible/decayable must put on incorruptibility/undecayability,*
  - b) *and this mortal must put on immortality/deathlessness.*
- 3) Culmination—15:54 (What **will** take place?) (like Christ's resurrected body)
  - a) Timing—<sup>54</sup> *Now when this corruptible/decayable has put on incorruptibility/undecayability, and this mortal has put on immortality,*
  - b) Proper sequence—*then shall come about the saying that is written, "Death has been swallowed up in victory."* (alluding to Isaiah 25:8)
- 4) Victory—15:55-57
  - a) Alluding to Hosea 13:14 —<sup>55</sup> *"O Death, where is **your** (emphatic) stinger? O Hades, where is **your** (emphatic) victory?"*
  - b) Theological realities—15:56-57
    - i) The sin principle—<sup>56</sup> *The stinger of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.*
    - ii) <sup>57</sup> *But thanks be to God (the Father), who is giving us the victory (over law, sin, guilt, and death) through [*dia*] our Lord Jesus Christ!*

**Application of the doctrine of a Godward resurrection—15:58**

- 1) Connection—<sup>58</sup> *For this reason, my beloved brothers,*
- 2) A single command—*be*
  - a) What? (cf. 15:1-2)
    - i) Stability in sound teaching—*settled,*
    - ii) Unshaken by false teaching—*immovable,*
    - iii) Persistent—*always abounding in the work/activity [*ergon*] of the Lord,*
  - b) How are these three things possible? *knowing that your<sup>pl</sup> (exhaustive) labor [*kopos*] is not in vain in the Lord.*