

## We Shall All Be Changed! – 1Corinthians 15:50-58

Bible Study ~ 8/9/17

Grace Church of Lockeford

Last week we learned that death is a defeated foe. Today we examine the incredible truth that we will be changed when Christ returns!

### 1. The Necessity Of Transformation vv. 50-53

In the section immediately preceding this one, Paul presents the differences between physical and spiritual bodies. We currently bear the bodies that are in Adam's image. When Christ returns we will be given bodies in His image. This transformation is presented as necessary in [v. 50](#). It is **Necessary for heavenly dwelling**. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. If flesh and blood cannot inherit, it stands to reason that we need to not be flesh and blood! It is also **Necessary for incorruption**. We have an incorruptible inheritance, these corruptible bodies cannot inherit it! Therefore, we need transformation.

Having declared what is needed Paul presents a mystery in [v. 51](#). **Not all will die**. There will be some who will be alive when Christ returns and will be immediately changed! They will not have to endure death. But whether you are asleep or not, when Christ returns **All will be changed**. All means all. Every single believer in Jesus Christ will be transformed! Moreover, according to [v. 52](#), it will be an **Instantaneous transformation**. In the briefest of moments, a mere blinking of the eye, we will be changed! However, this change will only occur **At the final trumpet**. This is the final trumpet of the church age signaling its end. As 1 Thessalonians 4 states, the **Dead are transformed first**. The dead are raised incorruptible. I love this! The dead are raised never to die again! Our loved ones who have preceded us in death will precede us in transformation! **All will be changed**. We shall be changed! We shall be changed because it is necessary. We cannot enjoy the unending presence of Jesus Christ until we have been transformed.

In [v. 53](#) Paul returns back to first point. **Corruption needs incorruption for heaven**. "Must" is the idea of being necessary. The believer must put on incorruption. Also, the **Mortal needs immortality for heaven**. Scripture reveals that we are to rule and reign with Christ. We cannot do that in these mortal bodies! We need immortality to reign alongside an eternal God! Our transformation is necessary! It will be instantaneous when Christ returns. All will be changed and enter an eternal state of bliss with our King of kings and Lord of lords. After giving the necessity, Paul moves on to...

### 2. The Purpose Of Transformation vv. 54-57

Paul declares in [v. 54](#) that the purpose for transformation is to display the final **Victory over death**. When these things take place, prophecy will finally be fulfilled. While Christ has won the victory over death, we do not experience it until we receive our glorified bodies. In [vv. 54-55](#) Paul quotes *Isaiah 25:8* & *Hosea 13:14*. These prophecies look forward to Christ's ultimate victory over death. Paul answers the questions of [v. 55](#) in [v. 56](#). When a bee stings you, you know it because of the sting, the pain. Sin is the sting, the reminder of death because **Death is a result of sin**. If it were not for sin, there would be no death. These things go hand in hand. Furthermore, **Sin is exposed by the Law**. In Romans Paul makes the case that the Law is what gives us an awareness of sin. It demonstrates vividly how we have stepped outside of God's will. Christ is victorious over sin and death! This is Paul's point in [v. 57](#).

God gives us victory through Christ. How is that possible? **Christ lived a sinless life and died to pay for sin**. Because of His sacrifice, we are able to have victory over sin. Scripture also reveals that **Christ fulfilled the Law**. We are free from the requirements of the Law because all its requirements have been perfectly met in Jesus Christ. These two realities gave Christ victory over death! It enables us to have victory over sin and death. The purpose of our transformation at Christ's return is to display this victory! What response should the knowledge our coming transformation inspire? [V. 58](#) addresses this.

### 3. The Effect Of Transformation v. 58

There are four effects that Paul argues for based on everything he has just stated. Because we have the promise of a future resurrection, because we will receive new bodies, because of all these things we are to do four things. Paul says to be “steadfast”. This is the idea of having an **Enduring witness**. A steadfast person doesn’t back down or give up. They are steady, dependable and consistent. Next Paul mentions “immovable”. This is the person who is unperturbed by what they world throws at them. They are a **Bold witness** no matter what. Like a rock that forces a river to rage around it the immovable person proclaims Christ regardless of the culture around them. They are “abounding in the work of the Lord”. This is someone who is a **Faithful witness**. More than simply being steady and dependable, this person flourishes as they work for their Lord! They are abounding! These three things are all built on what they know. Their “labor is not in vain in the Lord”. They are an **Informed witness**. We are to be full of Christ! Full of who He is and what He has promised so that we are empowered to carry on no matter what. We know our labor is not in vain! We know that we have the expectation of new bodies and eternal life! We know that death is a defeated foe and a necessary transition to enjoy the presence of God! Because of what we know we witnesses boldly, faithfully, and with endurance.

We shall be changed! This is such an encouraging and powerful truth! We are not going to die and that’s it. We are going to be transformed and taken into the presence of Jesus Christ! That is what we anticipate! Until then, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord because our labor is not in vain!

**CHALLENGE:** Serve boldly and faithfully as we await Christ’s return.