

Cornerstone Faith of West Liberty
 March 9, 2025 – 1 Corinthians 15:50-58
 Moving to the end

- I. The basic premise (vs. 50)—flesh and blood cannot inherit Kingdom of God nor corruption inherit incorruption

John 3:3-7 (NKJV) *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'*

- II. A Mystery (vs. 51-56)

- Mystery—secret, mystery (of something formerly unknown but now revealed). Barclay Newman—A Concise Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament.

- The mystery is we will not all die but we all be changed

1 Corinthians 2:7-9 (NKJV) *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, ⁸ which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

- A. Time frame (Matt. 24:29-31; Rev. 11:15-19)

- The twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet

Revelation 11:15 (NKJV) *Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"*

- B. Order of the mystery events

- Dead first then those who are alive second (1 Thess. 4:13-17; John 5:25-29)

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NKJV) *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

- No secret rapture—we are in the tribulation now!
 - o Tribulation or persecution verse—means they are the same—began with death of Stephen (Matt. 13:21; Acts 8:1)

Matthew 13:21 (NKJV) *yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.*

C. What happens—ALL are changed

- Move from corruptible to incorruptible and from mortal to immortal

Philippians 3:20-21 (NKJV) *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

- Death is ended (Isa. 25:8; Rev. 20:13-15, 21:4-5)

Isaiah 25:8 (NKJV) *He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.*

- Strength of death is sin and strength of sin is the law (2 Cor. 5:1-4; Hosea 13:14; Rom. 3:20-22, 4:15, 7:8-11)

Romans 7:8-11 (NKJV) *But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. ⁹ I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. ¹⁰ And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. ¹¹ For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.*

III. The Challenge (vs. 57-58)

A. Victory through Jesus (Rom. 8:37-39; 2 Cor. 2:14-16; 1 John 5:4; Rev. 12:11)

1 John 5:4 (NKJV) *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.*

B. How we are to live in light of the victory (2 Pet. 3:13-14, 17-18; 1 Cor. 3:8; 2 Cor. 7:1; Tit. 2:11-14; Gal. 6:9-10; Heb. 6:9-12)

2 Corinthians 7:1 (NKJV) *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

Titus 2:11-14 (NKJV) *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*