

Last Sunday: "As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly"

Every one of us are earth born humans. We live in earthy, mortal, corruptible bodies. Christian, you are no different than the lost; your body is dying just like unbelievers' bodies. Sin has affected all of humanity!

"The Difference" between you and the lost; your soul has been saved and made alive! You have been raised from spiritual death; you are spiritually alive; the LIFE OF GOD is in you. "We have this treasure in earthen vessels". Ephesians 2:1, Colossians 3:1-3, John 11:25-26

Since you have been born-again and made new, Christian, you NOW bear the image of Christ in your earthy body. Romans 12:1-2

1 Corinthians 15:20-23, Text: 1 Corinthians 15:50-57

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

You cannot enter heaven as you are, with mortal, corruptible, and sinful bodies that are dying! There MUST be a major change! Christian, you have been made new within; regenerated, brought to life, resurrected from spiritual death, and changed, but your body AT PRESENT is sinful, mortal, corruptible, and earthy. It is NOT fit/capable of entering heaven, IT TOO, MUST BE COMPLETELY CHANGED!

If Christ does not return before you die, your body, like a seed MUST BE planted in the earth in death and corruption.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52: "Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed, 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"

This is HOW it will all happen! To you, church, this will not be a mystery or hidden truth! BEHOLD!

For you to enter heaven, these earthy bodies must FIRST be CHANGED! If you haven't noticed, there are (2) sets of humans spoken of (V51-52): The DEAD in Christ, and the ALIVE in Christ!

(V51): "We shall NOT all sleep, but we SHALL ALL be changed"; (both the dead in Christ and the alive in Christ) shall be changed.

(V52): "The dead shall be raised incorruptible, and WE, (who are still alive) shall (also) be changed".

How is this going to happen? God saved you from your sins by His great power, God will also raise your bodies from the dead by His great power! If you're still alive when the Lord returns, you (your body) will be instantaneously CHANGED!

Philippians 3:20-21, Romans 8:11-14, 2 Corinthians 4:14-5:4

This supernatural CHANGE: The resurrection of the departed saints and CHANGE in the bodies of living saints (before they are taken up) will HAPPEN in a MOMENT OF TIME, the TWINKLING of an eye. In the smallest portion of time that exists, the meaning is "an atom of time".

Preceding THAT MOMENT, or AT THAT MOMENT, in the which the Lord will descend for His people, WHO WILL BE GATHERED unto Him in the clouds, there will be A SHOUT from the voice of the archangel, and the LAST TRUMPET will sound:

The history of military trumpet commands: Reveille (awake for roll call), Retreat (to the flag or colors), Call to quarters (at the end of the day), Taps (lights out or at the end of soldier's funeral), Assembly (soldiers gather)!

Brethren, at the last trump, we shall gather unto the Lord!

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 24:29-31, Revelation 1:7

Interestingly, in the opening of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, the angels "that stood by the apostles" when Jesus was taken up into heaven after His resurrection, told them that Jesus would come back JUST LIKE He left! Acts 1:6-11, Psalm 47:5

The Lord's return is going to be VERY LOUD! 2 Peter 3:9-10

1 Corinthians 15:53-55: AT the resurrection, THEN shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory"

Death, the last enemy will finally be conquered and defeated. This had long been prophesied: Paul here, cites Isaiah's prophecy:

Isaiah 25:7-9, 1 Corinthians 15:24-26, Luke 20:34-38

1 Corinthians 15:56: "The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law" (that is, the broken law)

Death came into the world because of sin. Romans 5:12, 6:23. Since Man's FALL, SIN and the DEVIL have continued to wreak havoc on fallen humanity, destroying life after life! SIN is the STING (or the poison dart) of death! Sin the lock and key that binds and condemns every one of us to death and the grave.

The strength (or power) of sin is the law; if you're lost, sin reigns over you, you are under its dominion and power!

EVERY human that has ever lived (save Christ) is a sinner, we have ALL sinned against God's holy law, and therefore condemned to die!

BUT CHRIST, who was without sin, (who although He was tempted to sin by the devil, and tested in the world, He did not once sin), therefore, the Lord Jesus could NOT be held captive by death, since He lived (a perfect human life) without sin. Christ was NOT poisoned by SIN!

THAT is WHY DEATH and the GRAVE could NOT HOLD HIM! It had no power over His life!

And yet, He faced death, entered upon death, and grappled with death for the sins of the world! 2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 2:14-15

The sting IN HIS DEATH was MY SINS, and the sins of EVERY SINNER for whom Christ died, in the world. My sins were laid upon Him, put upon His account! Justice had to be done for the sins of the world, payment had to be made which would satisfy the justice of God!

But since the Lord Jesus had no sins of His own, the grave could not hold Him! Now, in Christ, we can shout:

O death, WHERE IS THY STING? O grave, WHERE is thy victory?

Christian, your sins were laid upon Christ, who suffered and paid the penalty of all your sins! As the death and the grave could NOT hold the Lord Jesus...AT THE RESURRECTION, DEATH and the GRAVE shall not be able to hold you either; for the Son of Man destroyed the LAST ENEMY!

1 Corinthians 15:56-57: Sin gives death its power, but where there is no more sin, there can be no more death!
John 5:24-25