

Speaking a Mystery

Foundations

1 Corinthians 15:50-55

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?'

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

As we near the end of our study on the Apostles' Creed, we focus this week on "I believe in the resurrection of the body." Paul describes this magnificent idea in this way: "death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your sting?" As beautiful as this sounds, it is still a mystery that is hard for most of us to grasp. **How has your understanding and appreciation of "the resurrection of the body" changed over time?**

Though one of the most basic tenets of our faith, our participation with Jesus in the resurrection is often something we're not sure how to discuss or think about. For thousands of years, much of the focus has been "when" Christ would come, rather than "why" the resurrection of the body is significant. There are two points we can consider as we think about how the resurrection is important for each of our lives:

1) The resurrection of the body is communal

Our culture speaks to individuality, but the Bible's default is community. We, as a community, are the "body." Jesus, the head, desires to be joined with us, the body, in this moment of new creation. **If eternity is meant to be built on connectivity, how should this impact what it means to be together? As we begin to re-form habits, what do you not want to be too busy for?**

2) The resurrection of the body is also highly personal

Jesus as head of the body yearns to be reconnected with each of us. In this culture that rewards individuality, we all have moments when we feel overlooked and forgotten. **What does it mean to you to be desired as a part of the body, as Henri Nouwen describes, "when God looks at you he declares that you are his beloved"?**

Heavenly Father, thank you for the beautiful, mysterious truth of the resurrection. May we each know of our value in your eyes. Help us to understand together the significance of the resurrection for our lives. Amen.