



The Victory over Death
Pastor Frank A. Thomas
November 11, 2009

I Corinthians 15:50-57

Paul comes to the powerful conclusion of his argument about the resurrection:

Vs. 50 – God’s people must have more than a natural body to inherit the KOG – mortal body is perishable and cannot inherit the imperishable – resurrection body come through relationship with Christ – unsaved not in heaven and saved have bodies changed by Christ.

Vs. 51-52 – How Christ does the changing is a mystery, but there are some things that Paul knows:

- a) Not all Christians will fall asleep (be dead) when Christ returns I Thess. 4:15;
- b) All Christians will receive changed bodies when Christ returns and summons his people at the sound of the trumpet – Rev. 11:15 – the rapture (I Thess. 4:13-17);
- c) The change will occur instantaneously for all Christians whether they are living or dead;
- d) The change will occur from one kind of body to another.

Vs. 53 – For the perishable must put on the imperishable – those in Christ whose bodies are decaying in the grave must put on the imperishable; those who are in mortal bodies and are alive when Christ returns will put on “changed” immortal bodies – bodies that will not die.

Vs. 54 –55 – When all this occurs – the triumphant words in Isaiah 25:8 and Hosea 13:14 will become a reality for God’s people:

- a) Death has been swallowed up in victory – the believer in the grave and the believer alive will know no more death;
- b) Such authority over death that we can speak to death and ask death where is your victory;
- c) Death where is your sting?

Vs. 56 – If not for sin, death would have no sting – and the power of sin is the law – the law of God with its stringent moral demands strengthens the power of sin by showing us how sinful we are, and thus condemns us. Death is the consequence of Adam’s sin.

Vs. 57 – But death does not have the final victory – God gives us the victory through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus cancelled the law, which cancels sin, and takes the sting out of death – so we have the victory.