

*We Shall Not All Sleep*

*But  
We All Shall Be  
Changed*

THE  
MYSTERY  
OF GOD

Written By Rev.  
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## Introduction

### **Excerpts From The Ancient History Encyclopedia**

Paul, the apostle, more than 20 centuries ago, wrote a letter to the church at Corinth.

Corinth was an ancient city and former municipality in Corinthia, Peloponnese, which is located in south-central Greece. It was a leader among Greek cities as it had an early example (seventh century B.C.) of a Greek Doric temple, the Temple of Apollo, as well as having the first example in the Greek world of terracotta roof tiles for its roof. Corinth was also well known for its pottery that was traded all over the Mediterranean.

Corinth is most known for being a city-state that, at one time, had control of two strategic ports. They were both important because they were key stops on two different ancient trade routes.

Ancient Corinth, the original Corinth, founded in the 10th Century BCE, had been the richest port and the largest city in ancient Greece.

Paul wrote his letter to reaffirm the reality of Christ's Resurrection—doubted or denied by some—as the very foundation of Christian faith. The Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (II Corinthians in the New Testament) was written from Macedonia in about 55 AD.

# Behold, I Tell You A Mystery

1 Corinthians 15:50-

Now I say this, brethren, that *flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God*; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Behold, *I tell you a mystery*; we will not all sleep, 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.

**“We shall all be changed”** is the beginning of the mystery of God. Changed into what? Why does God want to change us?

For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written,

"DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"

So we will become immortal beings, right? We may have to die but we do not have to stay dead, Right?

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here's what Paul is telling the church in his first letter:

1. Sin causes death and no one is exempt. We all will die one day because we have all sinned.
2. God has given the Kingdom of God to His children. It is our inheritance. **But who are the children of God?**
3. Flesh & Blood cannot inherit God's kingdom. We are flesh & blood and he didn't put us on the list of heirs to inherit anything. It has been given to the children that are born of His Spirit.

4. We are the perishable because we die. We must put on imperishable in order to become the Spiritual kids of God and gain His kingdom. We shall be changed from mortal to immortal.
5. Death will be swallowed up in victory when we become immortal.
6. There is a resurrection coming for the dead. We, who trust in Christ, as our Savior will be raised from the dead to forever, be with the Lord.
7. The unsaved dead will be resurrected too but not unto life. They will experience a 2<sup>nd</sup> death and be cast into hell's fire.

## **Life And Death After Death**

I Corinthians chapter 15 tells us that there will be life for some and death for others after we die. Those that did not join themselves to God and trusted in His Only Begotten Son will not experience a resurrection into eternal life. They will be raised but unto an eternal death.

On the other hand, those that did trust in God's only begotten Son will experience life eternal and see their mortal bodies transformed into immortal spiritual bodies.

The key to this mystery is found in John 3:16. It is the "Whoever's" that find their way to heaven. All are called to be a "Whoever" but not all respond.

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"*

Jesus spoke these words and also identified Himself as the only begotten Son of God. He also said:

*"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* **John 14:6**

So, *the mystery of God*, that was hidden through the ages, that in these last days has been made known is...[God so loved you](#) that He send Jesus to die for your sins and live the life that you could not because of sin. He is your substitute before God's throne of judgment. He lived and died in your place so you can be resurrected and granted eternal life.

## A Matter of Trust

Just so you know, the word, “Mystery” as it is used here means [a secret](#). God had a secret that He did not want to reveal until now. That’s what Paul is saying. His secret is in the redemption of all who trust in His dear Son for their salvation.

It’s not difficult to trust in Jesus. We trust in a lot of other things such as; pills to fix a sickness, stop lights to control the flow of traffic, trains and planes to transport us safely and so on. Trust is really the act of believing a certain thing. If I believe that the chair I am about to sit down on is safe, I will trust that it will hold my weight and I will thus sit down and demonstrate my trust in the ability of the chair to hold me. Crossing over a bridge is the same thing.

Trusting in Jesus is to believe that He did what He said He did and has the power in Himself to deliver you from your own sin into everlasting life. To believe is to rely upon, trust in and adhere to all that God said.

## Come, Let Us Reason Together

**Question?** [Why did God require innocent blood as a ransom for our sin?](#)  
After all, He is the all-powerful God who can do anything. Making the innocent pay the penalty for the sin of the guilty is not fair, is it?

*Let Us Reason Together....* The bible tells us that sin caused death to pass upon all men. That means every human being is spiritually dead. Being then lost and dead in our trespasses, we are in bondage to a sinful nature that we could not get free from. Our fate was sealed to an everlasting hell. (Read Romans 5:12 and onward)

Yes, God is all-powerful but He is also full of mercy and His very personality is described with the word, “Love.” His judgment over sin is death. However, His love for us brought forth mercy that would cover our sins with a blood sacrifice. (Read John 3:16)

The sacrifice had to be sinless, pure from any form of sin. But there was no such sacrifice until Jesus...only the sacrifices of bulls & goats and the spotless lamb that covered man's iniquity for the span of one year.

Jesus, being the, "Anointed One" from God, the Christ, was the ultimate and final sacrifice. No longer does God require a blood sacrifice. The penalty is paid in full. (This is the mystery or secret of God that was hidden from mankind for so many ages.)

**Question?** Wasn't Jesus just a man like all the rest of humanity? How can He be spotless and without sin?

*Let Us Reason Together...* Jesus was indeed a 100% human being. However He was very different than you and me. Different in that, He was without sin. The bible again tells us that Jesus was born of a virgin. His DNA was pure. It had no death in it that passed upon all of us. His blood was pure. His heart was pure. His life was always in obedience to His Father's will.

Jesus came into the world as a sinless being when the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary and she conceived. He left this world as the sinless sacrifice through death for the sins of the entire world. However, because His soul was pure and He was actually the Son of God, He rose from the dead. Death could not hold Him. He was victorious over death, hell and the grave. (Read John chapter 1)

The man, Jesus was fully human and fully God. He did not leave the redemption of man to angels or good works. He instead came down from heaven Himself to redeem us. He made a way where there was no way and offered it to all who dare to believe.

**Question?** If God went to all this trouble why is it restricted to just those who believe? Shouldn't everyone be saved and not just a few?

*Let Us Reason Together...* Man was created with a free will. That means he has the power of choice and can decide to obey or rebel; be good or not; fulfill God's destiny or make his own.

*Jesus said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

*Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads unto life, and few there be that find it". (Matthew 7:13-14)*

The gate is the gate to the Kingdom of Heaven and life eternal with God. The way to this gate is narrow. It requires folks to be, "Born Again" and follow Jesus. It is a free will choice that many do not want to make because they like to do their own thing and be their own god.

*"Jesus said unto him, (Thomas) "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6*

We must go through Jesus to get to God and His Heaven. Buddha can't get us there. Religion can't get us there. Good works can't get us there. *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12*

Any other person or way is the broad way spoken of by Jesus that many will choose but will end up in destruction.

**Question?** *If we are being saved from destruction, what are we being saved for?*

*Let Us Reason Together...* The bible tells us, *"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."* **I Corinthians 2:9**

*"But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God."* **I Corinthians 2:10**

We do know two things:

1. **God is saving man so man can become as He created him from the beginning.** That purpose is stated in Genesis 1:26

*"And God said, Let us make man in our **image**, after our **likeness**: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."*

When we are, “**Born Again**” by the Spirit of God, we become in His image and likeness. This happens now in this life, as we live here on the earth. We are given the fruit of God’s Spirit to walk in. That produces His image and likeness.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”  
**Galatians 5:22-23**

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. (V-24) *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.* (V-25)

2. **God is preparing a Bride for His Son that will be the honored guest at the wedding feast of the marriage supper of the Lamb.** This happens in heaven after all is said and done.

**Ephesians 5:27** - That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

The imagery and symbolism of marriage is applied to Christ and the body of believers known as the church. The church is comprised of those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and have received eternal life.

Christ, the Bridegroom, has sacrificially and lovingly chosen the church to be His bride (Ephesians 5:25–27). Just as there was a betrothal period in biblical times during which the bride and groom were separated until the wedding, so is the bride of Christ separate from her Bridegroom during the church age.

Her responsibility during the betrothal period is to be faithful to Him (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:24). At the rapture, the church will be united with the Bridegroom and the official “wedding ceremony” will take place and, with it, the eternal union of Christ and His bride will be actualized (Revelation 19:7–9; 21:1-2).

In the eternal state, believers will have access to the heavenly city known as New Jerusalem, also called “the holy city” in Revelation 21:2 and 10. The New Jerusalem is not the church, but it takes on some of the church’s characteristics.

In his vision of the end of the age, the apostle John sees the city coming down from heaven adorned “as a bride,” meaning that the city will be gloriously radiant and the inhabitants of the city, the redeemed of the Lord, will be holy and pure, wearing white garments of holiness and righteousness.

Some have misinterpreted verse 9 to mean the redeemed of the Lord, will be holy and pure, wearing white garments of holiness and righteousness. Others have misinterpreted verse 9 to mean the holy city is the bride of Christ, but that cannot be because Christ died for His people, not for a city.

The city is called the bride because it encompasses all who are the bride, just as all the students of a school are sometimes called “the school.”

[Believers in Jesus Christ are the bride of Christ](#), and we wait with great anticipation for the day when we will be united with our Bridegroom. Until then, we remain faithful to Him and say with all the redeemed of the Lord, “Come, Lord Jesus!” Revelation 22:20 (Gotquestions.org) **This is our destiny, forever to be with Christ.**

## Conclusion

*“Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”* I **Corinthians 15:51-53**

The mystery of God is His great love for His children and His divine plan to redeem them, deliver them and present them to His Son as an eternal bride.

His hidden plan was designed even before He created anything and He will not stop until it has all been accomplished.

We now know, in these last days, what [the secret is](#). It is... **that we are destined to be changed into the image and likeness of our Savior with Christ living in us through His Holy Spirit.** Hear what Paul said to the church at Rome more than 2000 years ago.

*“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he*

*called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.” Romans 8:29-30*

Our destination has been predetermined. That destination is our destiny. It is to be Christ like. This is our purpose in life and the mystery of God.

*What shall we then say to these things?*

*If God be for us, who can be against us? V-31*

