



*⁵⁰ Now I say this, brethren, that **flesh and blood** cannot inherit the **kingdom of God**; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.*

Paul has been demonstrating that Flesh and Blood, man, as he is here below, cannot inherit God's kingdom.

- the *Kingdom of heaven* is entered by a righteousness exceeding the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees ([Matt. 5:20](#)),
- the *Kingdom of God* is entered by the new birth ([John 3:1-16](#)).

Chafer

In verses 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 (NASB)

⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It (the body) is sown a **perishable *body*, it is raised an **imperishable** *body*;**

⁴³ it is sown in **dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in **weakness**, it is raised in **power**;**

⁴⁴ it is sown a **natural body, it is raised a **spiritual body**. If there is a **natural body**, there is also a **spiritual** *body*.**

Why do our bodies need to go through this process?

We see the natural body being sown, buried.

Verse 44 tells us because it's a **natural body**,
the resurrection body will be a **spiritual body**.

A new life principle will animate this new body.

It will be a **body** in which the spiritual life of man will predominate.

It is not merely that corruption does not inherit incorruption,
being incompatible, **but man in his best estate is altogether
prideful and sinful.**

This becomes increasingly obvious from the language of Verse 50,

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

Notice that God's kingdom is here viewed exclusively on the other side of death.

The resurrected body will be

- 1. limitless in power,**
- 2. infinite in glory,**
- 3. eternal in endurance, and**
- 4. adapted to the spirit.**

⁴⁵ So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

⁴⁷ The first man (Adam) is from the earth, earthy; the second man (Last Adam) is from heaven.

There is an infinite difference between the Last Adam, and the first Adam.

God created Adam from the earth; he was natural, perfect, unmarred flesh and blood and untested. He fell.

Christ, the Last Adam, from heaven and when resurrected became a life giving spirit. He came and did the will of the Father. John 4:34

49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

No matter what is done with the Adamic race, it will be forever earthly.

We, as now in Christ via the cross, shall also bear the image of Christ in the day that is coming.

As the heavenly One, such also the heavenly ones (Christians).

We have borne the image of the earthy, so we will, bear the image of the heavenly.

Chafer's Systematic Theology

*⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; **we** will not all sleep, but **we** will all be changed,*

Question: how and when, shall we obtain these spiritual and incorruptible bodies?

Old Testament saints (witness Job) knew certainly of the resurrection.

But who could tell or think of saints being changed without going through the death process?

What a proof of the value of Christ's work, when the saints that remain alive are changed without dying.

*52 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.*

The redemption of the saint's body will be from every spot of the globe.

This great change will take place “*in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump*”

Not they only, but “*we*” too shall be changed, in exact accordance with the truth of verses 51 and 52.

The last trumpet sound comes from the Roman army. They marched off at the sound of a trumpet.

53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

The phrase "flesh and blood" refers to the mortal body and living mortals in particular.

It is impossible for us in our present physical forms to enter into, as an inheritance, the heavenly place in the kingdom of God that Christ said He was going to prepare for us. Chafer

The kingdom of God can have no part in death or dying—either its presence or its product.

*54 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.**"*

- When the dead in Christ shall rise, and we who are alive be changed and caught up, then shall this transformation fulfill the prophecy in [Isaiah 25:8 \(NASB\)](#) "**DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.**"
- God will overcome death.

**55 "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH,
WHERE IS YOUR STING?"**

- Death is man's last enemy.
- Looking back over the long, sad history of a fallen world, we see that the shadow of death is over all.
- God will defeat death when He raises His people to life.

Looking on to this great event to come, the believer can say, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

It is sin which gives not only occasion, but its sting, to death.

The law, however righteous, could not work deliverance for the guilty sinner.

Instead, the law proves in effect the strength of sin.

His grace not the law, is the strength of holiness, as we learn from *Romans 6:14 (NASB)* ¹⁴ *For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- God gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- The One Who bore the sting when made sin on the Cross, and *“redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us”* ([2 Cor. 5:21](#); [Galatians 3:13](#)).

Instead of fearing death, we render thanks to Him who has given us the victory by Jesus. The great result is to be with the Lord Jesus and be like Jesus, and to see Him as He is.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

Therefore, on account of the mighty victory that Christ has gained by His death, and that is witnessed by His resurrection:

- Let us be firm in maintaining the truth,
- Unmoved by any attacks of the enemy, and
- Abounding always in the work of the Lord,
- Knowing that any toil or suffering will have a glorious answer and not be in vain.

