

THE MYSTERY OF THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

We are currently studying a Sunday series of doctrines of the Resurrection from 1 Cor.15:1-58. Today we are studying the last of the six sections in this series, entitled, **Preach the Order of Resurrection.**

(1 Cor.15:1-11)	Preach Gospel of Grace Salvation
(1 Cor.15:12-19)	Preach the Resurrection
(1 Cor.15:20-28)	Preach the Order of the Resurrection
(1 Cor.15:29-34)	Preach the Victory of Resurrection
(1 Cor.15:35-49)	Preach the Resurrection Body
(1 Cor.15:50-58)	Preach the Mystery of the Rapture

This lesson's title comes from (1 Cor.15:51) – “Behold, I tell you a mystery; **we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.**”

This lesson will study five aspects of the Mystery of Rapture of Church.

1. The mystery of Rapture is the mystery of Christ that is the mystery of the church.

Greek word for mystery is musterion. It requires divine revelation and interpretation to understand its meaning. It reminded me of Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams (Gen.41).

(Eph.5:32) “This **mystery is great**; but I am speaking with reference to **Christ and the church.**”

(1 Cor.12:27) “Now you are **Christ's body**, and individually members of it.” (1 Cor.15:12-27; 1:2)

2. The mystery of the Rapture of Church is based on the resurrection, ascension, session, and return of Jesus Christ.

(1 Cor.15:23) “But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming.”

(1 Thess.4:17) “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and **the dead in Christ will rise first.**”

3. Pay attention to two key words regarding the Rapture of the Church in (1 Cor.15:51-52): sleep and changed.

(1 Cor.15:51) “We shall not all sleep (koimao) (f.p.ind 1pl) but we shall all be changed (allasso) (f.p.ind.1pl).”

Sleep is a euphuism for the death of a Church Age Believer. It describes the period between the believer's death and presence with Lord - until the Rapture.

(2 Cor.5:8) “We are of good courage, I say, and prefer to be absent from the body and to be home (endemos) [to be among one's own people] with the Lord.”

(1 Cor.15:20) “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.”
(1 Cor.15:6, 15, 58)

Christ will bring those who asleep in Christ with Him in the Rapture.

(1Thess.4:14) “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.”

4. Often, key words are missed because they are used a lot and overlooked. This could be the case if we were not careful in (1 Cor.15:51) with the word “ALL.”

(1 Cor.15:51) “Behold, I tell you a mystery, we shall not ALL sleep, but we shall ALL be changed.”

At the Rapture, two groups of Church Age Believer’s will receive their resurrection bodies:

- **Deceased** Church Age Believer’s
- **Living** Church Age Believer’s.

(1 Cor.15:52) “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 shall be changed.”

5. This change of the living Church Age Believer’s at the Rapture Is explained as “putting on.”

Two changes are listed in (1 Cor.15:53-54). In (1 Cor.15:52), we are told that:

- “the dead with raised imperishable, and
- we (living) will be changed.”

(1 John 3:2) “Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.”

In (1 Cor.15:53-54), we are told that the living is perishable and must put on (enduo) [clothed] imperishable and the mortal must put on immortality. The Greek word Enduo is used in (2 Cor.5:1-5) as clothed.

In (1 Cor.15:42-49), we are given four additional changes.

- Dishonor to glory
- Weakness to power
- Natural to spiritual
- Earth [earthy image] to heaven [heavenly image]