

## Extreme Makeover

Reality television captures popularity through many different themes, but none so well as the extreme makeover route. We've seen average houses transformed into showcase homes, and the personal appearance of individuals so radically changed they almost don't look like the same person. In today's Templates of Truth, Paul tells us about another extreme makeover that looms just over the horizon.

Paul said, *I tell you a mystery...we shall all be changed* (I Corinthians 15:51). It is a mystery not because it is a big divine secret, but because of the complexity & extensive reach of Paul's revelation. So far reaching, in fact, we cannot fathom all the realities involved in this exciting promise. Yet, it is true. We shall all undergo an extreme makeover. Like the preview teasers in the reality television shows, Paul gives us a few glimpses into what's coming.

Here's the problem - our earthly physical bodies are not designed for eternal existence – *flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God* (15:50). They age and eventually die. Yet, living forever is a reality all people will experience. It is not a question of whether or not you HAVE eternal life; it is a question of WHERE you will spend eternity – heaven or hell. The Bible makes it very clear that hell is a horrible, eternal punishment. But again, these physical earthly bodies are not designed for eternal existence, regardless of which place in eternity they end up. A transformation is necessary to make them so – an extreme makeover!

The focus of Paul's discussion in chapter fifteen of I Corinthians is the resurrection. We celebrate Easter to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. One of Paul's revealing points is that just as God raised Jesus from the dead, He will also raise every person who has ever lived. Even unbelievers will be raised from their graves, face their final judgment before God, and be given bodies that will endure eternal suffering in hell. That is a sobering reality that should cause persons who reject the Gospel to surrender their lives to God through faith & trust in Jesus Christ before it is eternally too late.

To all of us who have accepted Christ as our personal Savior, Paul declares, *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet...the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed* (15:52). Paul is referring to that great eschatological event we call the Rapture of the Church. There are no more signs or prophecies that must be fulfilled before this event occurs. It is the next appointment on God's prophetic calendar and it could happen at any *moment*. As Paul teaches in I Thessalonians 4:13-18, when the trumpet sounds to signal the Rapture, believers who have previously died will be raised from their graves, and those still living at the time will join them in the air to meet Jesus in the clouds. The bodies of all believers at that moment will be instantly transformed into a glorified, spiritual body especially fitted for heavenly existence. It will happen so fast, the sparkle of your eye cannot even capture its duration.

Paul describes the characteristics of this new glorified body: *it is raised an imperishable body...in glory...in power...a spiritual body* (15:42-44). What a wonderful thought! To have a body that no longer ages, decays, gets weak, sick or injured. A body that possesses miraculous powers such as those demonstrated by Jesus' glorified body following His resurrection. It transcended physical matter, time and space, yet consumed food & drink, and could be seen & touched. With this gloried body, we will live & reign with Christ during His earthly millennial Kingdom, being able to move from earth to heaven at will. The most wonderful reality will be that our new glorified body will not be corrupted or affected by sin. Our sinful flesh will no longer co-exist in our redeemed body. Our spiritual body will be incorruptible, totally free from any capability for sin. Just imagine no longer having to come to God and ask His forgiveness for failure, disobedience and rebellious choices!

Do you need an extreme makeover today? Maybe your body is still held captive by the power & condemnation of unforgiven sin. Only Jesus can release you from that bondage, and He stands ready to hear your prayer of repentance, to surrender your life to Him as your Savior & Lord. He will forgive your every sin, come into your life and save you. If you die before you can make that life-changing decision, it will be too late. You will never have the opportunity again. I plead with you to give your life to Christ now.

For those of us who walk with Christ, our extreme makeover looms just over the horizon. We are almost there. Very soon, we'll have a new body and whole new life!

That's today's Templates of Truth. This is your Bible teacher, Rick Smith, reminding you to attend church this Sunday for Bible study and worship, pray for one another, and always strive to abide in Christ. Until next time, have a blessed and glorious day in the Lord Jesus.