

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

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What Change Are You Waiting For?

The word of God promises *“we shall be changed”* I Corinthians 15:52 when the dead in Christ are resurrected to meet Jesus in the clouds. I

Thessalonians 4:17. Most Christians look forward to the hour of their *“change.”* The important question is: *“What change are you waiting for? And what will that change be?”*

There are two changes promised in the Bible as the solution for the two conditions which will not inherit the kingdom of God. The Apostle Paul reveals the first condition when addressing fornication among believers. He wrote, *“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived...”* I Corinthians 6:9. He continued on to let them know that the *“unrighteous”* includes all fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, and extortioners. I Corinthians 6:9-10.

Paul then reminds us that many believers were once these kinds of people until something changed them. He said, *“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”* I Corinthians 6:11. This great change came about through the miracle of

“salvation.” It is the work of the blood of Christ which washes unrighteousness from the heart, life, and nature of those who come to Jesus Christ.

This great transformation takes place when the light of Christ shines into our hearts. The Apostle Paul says, *“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, **are changed into the same image** from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”* II Corinthians 3:18. This *“glass,”* in which we see the *“glory of the Lord”* is *“the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”* II Corinthians 4:6. Paul tells us this light is *“the light of the glorious gospel of Christ...”* I Corinthians 4:4. It is the testimony of what was accomplished in the first coming of Jesus Christ when he suffered and died for us on the cross.

The second condition which shall not inherit the kingdom is simply *“flesh and blood.”* Paul says, *“Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.**”* I Corinthians 15:50.

Those who have received the first change through faith in Jesus Christ must also receive a second change before they can enter Heaven’s glory. This change, however, will be accomplished by Jesus Christ at his second coming. Paul confirms this, saying, *“For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: **Who shall change our vile (lowly) body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto***

himself." Philippians 3:20-21. The word of God tells us
"*... the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall
be raised incorruptible, and we shall be
changed.*" I Corinthians 15:52.

There are many in the church who are confused and deceived about the two changes which must take place in each of us. Many people hope they will be changed from unrighteous to righteous when they die or when Jesus Christ returns. That belief is a false hope! "*Today is the day of salvation,*" not tomorrow!" II Corinthians 6:2.

Our deliverance from sin, Satan, and every power of darkness was accomplished in the first coming of Jesus Christ when he offered himself upon the cross. This free salvation must be received in this life. It will not be offered after we close our eyes in death. Those who "*die in their sins*" John 8:24 will remain in their sins for eternity. In that hour it will be according to God's word which says, "***He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.***" Revelation 22:11.