



*I tell you a mystery, we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed.*  
**1 Corinthians 15:51**

Two words stand out in the passage above: mystery and change. All of us experience changes. Some are mysterious and some are easy to explain. Some changes are wanted, others are unwanted. A child wants to get older and grow bigger. When they do grow we see changes that we expected. These are changes a child desires. As you get older some changes are unwanted, like, your best friend moving away or the death of a loved one. These are the mysterious changes.

In the passage above, Paul was writing about both wanted and unwanted changes. These had to do with the return of Jesus. The word “sleep” in the above passage is a reference to death. The changes Jesus brings are mysterious.

The word “*mystery*”, in the Bible, means you cannot explain everything. We can be assured that in the midst of changes “God is love” (1 John 4:16). This is where the mystery can turn into an adventure and not something to be feared. God's love is perfect. Perfect love drives out fear (1 John 4:18). It is easier to talk about mysterious changes as being an adventure, but it is more difficult to be content with mystery. Maybe what will help us is to look at the change God promised.

The change that is promised is - Jesus Christ will return to the earth to judge the whole world. Some people will still be alive when he returns; therefore, not all will sleep. The change that God brings is good. The change at the resurrection will be all glory and not sadness.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 explains how this will happen. I encourage you to read it, but for the sake of brevity I will highlight what the Bible says about Jesus' return.

Vs 13 - we do not want you to grieve as those who have no hope.

Vs 14 - Jesus died and rose again and God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

Vs 15 ...we who are still alive...will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

Vs 16 - For the Lord...will come down from heaven...and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Vs 17 - After that, we who are still alive...will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. ...we will be with the Lord forever.

Vs 18 - Therefore encourage each other with these words.

The mysterious change of our bodies will be so we can be with the Lord forever. Then everyone will know what we already know. Jesus lives! Do you look upon being with the Lord forever as a good thing? If not, where does your perspective need to change? God grant us the power to change.