

GET READY SERIES

LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST'S RETURN IN THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER JH 405 SUNDAY JULY 24, 2016

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

WHY SHOULD YOU BELIEVE IN THE RAPTURE?

REDISCOVERING THE BIBLICAL PROMISE OF THE LORD'S RETURN

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Rapture, Hope, Apologetics, Vigilance, Faith

Introduction to the Text;

1st Thessalonians 4:13-18

1Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. **15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.

In my understanding of the Bible and of the doctrine of Future-Biblical events, I have come to experience that it's through the study of the prophetic word of God that I can (1) draw closer to the person of Jesus and (2) have a more energetic relationship about Him - toward others
– in a word,

And so Ready or Not, God's Prophetic Time Clock is Ticking

You Don't Need Me to Tell You
That We're Living in Very Challenging Times.

These are the days that the Bible prepared us for;
Regarding false **doctrines**, false **believers**, false **churches**

Matthew 24:11-12

Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. **12** And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

There is An Unhealthy Skepticism in Our World Today.
But I Invite You To Think and to Reason According to the
Scriptures.

2 Peter 1:17-19

For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." **:18** And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. **:19** And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

Perhaps more than ever, The Church needs to be reminded and
excited about this awesome truth...

Titus 2:13

looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing
of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

WHY SHOULD YOU BELIEVE IN THE RAPTURE

#1 - Is the Rapture Biblical?

*Contrary to popular belief and in opposition to modern church trends, **the Bible has always taught that Jesus Christ would return in the atmosphere to take possession of His church.** The Apostles as well as the disciples awaited the return of Jesus Christ. Early church fathers taught of the sudden coming of Christ.*

1a.) Where is it in scripture?

1Thessalonians 1:10

“..wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who **delivers us from the wrath to come.**

1Thessalonians 2:19

For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it not even* **you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?**

1Thessalonians 3:13

so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father **at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.**

1Thessalonians 4:16-17a

:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And (1) the dead in Christ will rise first. :17 Then (2) we who are alive *and remain* **shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.**

1Thessalonians 5:9

For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 9:28

So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who **eagerly wait** for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, **for salvation.**

This Is Why It's Called “**The Blessed Hope**” My Friends.

1b.) Why does it need to happen?

There are many reasons why *the rapture has to happen in light of the Bible but a couple reasons are as follows;*

The Anti-Christ cannot appear until after the church has been removed from the scene.

#1 - Anti-Christ Being Resisted

2 Thessalonians 2:1

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, :2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. :3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition... :6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. :7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. :8 And then the lawless one will be revealed,

*Just How Quick or Soon after the Rapture will the AC & his False Prophet arise, no man knows. But we do know **that the Rapture unlocks the door to the entire remaining prophetic scene follows...***

Like The Domino Effect

The Rapture Begins a Domino Effect - Butterfly Effect that over Time sets in motion literally 100's of Bible Prophecies that must be fulfilled before the Awesome (terrible) Second Coming of Christ to earth as seen in Revelation 19.

#2 – Those left behind get lost

2 Thessalonians 2:11

And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, :12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

#3 – Jesus will host an Open House in Heaven

John 14:1-3

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. :2 In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. :3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

#4 – God the Holy Spirit Finishes His Work

The Rapture of the Church Ends The Work of The Holy Spirit in the Life and Ministry of the Church on Earth.

But there is to be the “**stepping aside**” of the Holy Spirit concerning His work in and with the church. When the rapture takes place, the Holy Spirit will have completed His ministry to the church, the bride of Christ.

Right now the Holy Spirit is “**In His Church**” (#1) resisting evil, darkness and the spirit of the world. (#2) to spread the gospel, (#3) to display the love of Christ. (#4) to shine like a light.

That hindering work of the Holy Spirit
that is seen among God’s remnant people will end

1c.) *What purpose does the Rapture serve?*

It Fulfills God’s Promise to Deliver His Church from His Wrath

Isaiah 26:20-21

Come, my people, enter your chambers, And shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past. :21 For behold, the LORD comes out of His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity;

Revelation 3:7

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia... **Rev. 3:10** Because you have kept My command to persevere, **I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.**”

The Rapture of the Church

initiates the opening act of earthly judgments...

The Rapture of the Church

leaves a void, a vacancy of righteousness.

The Rapture of the Church

deposits the church in heaven for the marriage supper of the Lamb

Colossians 3:5

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. :6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

The Rapture of the Church

Puts the Jewish Believers on the world scene of evangelism & miracles

WHY SHOULD YOU BELIEVE IN THE RAPTURE

#2 - Is the Rapture Possible?

The Rapture is an End Times, Biblical event. It involves both the natural and the supernatural in its fulfillment. In a sense the rapture is the final act in the redemption doctrine of the Bible. It is not only possible but essential to the completion of God's promises to the believers.

2a. How will the Rapture happen?

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be **changed** -
:52 in a moment, in the **twinkling of an eye**,

According to the Bible, the Rapture will happen in a way that can only be described as a "nuclear second or a Nano second". The Bible describes the event as taking place in a twinkling of an eye which is less than 18 thousandths of a second.

1Thessalonians 4:16

For **the Lord Himself** will descend from heaven **with a shout**, with the **voice of an archangel**, and with **the trumpet of God**. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **:17** Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

2b. What happens to those who miss the Rapture?

*Bible Scholars and Students are
Not Sure About This*

Those having missed the Rapture appear to be the ones who knew the way of eternal life but rejected it while they had opportunity. They will be subjected to great deception and strong delusion. They will suffer a special wrath of God that takes place at the front-end or at the first three and half years of the Seven Year Tribulation. They will have to face the Great Tribulation Period.

2c. Will the Rapture hurt?

The Word **Rapture**
Appears in **Latin** Translation of the Bible.

In greek its **har-pad-zo**

In english its **catching up or caught up**

It is an exciting and wonderful thing to think about just how the rapture will happen. #1 - Will it be loud or visible? . #2 - Will non-believers feel it or hear it or see it? And what about the bodies of those being resurrected, . #3 - will there be a hole in the ground. For the child of God that long awaited change – change you can believe in will finally happen. Our metamorphous will be instantaneous and glorious.

Philippians 3:20-21

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also **eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, :21 who will transform our lowly body** that it may be conformed to His glorious body,

1 Corinthians 15:50-53

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. :51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be **changed** - :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 incorruptible, and we shall be **changed**. :53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

WHY SHOULD YOU BELIEVE IN THE RAPTURE

#3 - Is the Rapture Near?

According to the Scriptures, the Rapture has always been set forth in such a way as to: #1 - demand vigilance on behalf of those living ahead of the rapture. Since the teaching of the Rapture set forth by Jesus Christ Himself, there remains this doctrine of suddenness or imminency.

3a. Will there be any warning of the Rapture?

NO, none whatsoever. The Bible clearly teaches that there is no precursor or warning prior to the rapture taking place. Unlike the Physical and Bodily Second Coming of Christ, the Rapture is an appearing. The Second Coming of Christ is to earth and is preempted by literally hundreds of prophetic events.

Unlike the Second Coming –

The Rapture has **no prerequisite / no precursor / no pre-announcement / no preconditions.**

However – The End Time Events Do.

*We can learn just **how close we are** by what we see happening and forming in the world around us now !!!*

Increased global events listed in scripture such as Matthew 24 or Luke 21 or Revelation 13 – our current events are pointing like sign posts toward the end.

3b. How should I be living prior to the Rapture?

We're to be living "Rapture Ready Lives" (Our First Love Relationship)

1 Thessalonians 5:1-9

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. :2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night :3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. :4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. :5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. :6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. :7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. :8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. :9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thessalonians 3:13

So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father **at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.**

(the deceased of 1-Thessalonians 4:13-14)

Seek those things that are above where Christ is...

Colossians 3:8

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. :17 And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

3c. Can I miss the Rapture?

You will not miss the Rapture **IF**

Part of your born again experience with Jesus Christ
Is the fact that **you have been sealed** unto the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:30

And do not **grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, by whom
you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Matthew 25:13

"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the
hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

You could end up being **ashamed** at the Rapture **IF**

You fail to maintain a healthy and growing Christian walk with God.
You maintain a state of readiness, vigilance, and expectancy.

1 John 2:28

And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence
and not be **ashamed** before Him at His coming.

WHY SHOULD YOU BELIEVE IN THE RAPTURE

#4 - Is the Rapture Real?

The reality of the rapture has been debated and argued and some have even denied
its reality. Yet the Bible is crystal clear regarding the doctrine of the rapture

4a. Who said the Rapture is real?

Jesus Christ said

Luke 21:34-36

**"Be careful, because your hearts could be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness
and the anxieties of this life, and that day will close in on you unexpectedly like a trap.
:35 For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. :36 **Be
always on the watch, and pray that you may escape all that is about to happen,
and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."****

The Apostle *Paul* said:

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For **the Lord Himself** will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **:17** Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

The Apostle *John* said:

John 14:1-3

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. **:2** In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. **:3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

And *History* says:

*The earliest of the church fathers taught the **imminent return of Jesus Christ**. It is clear that the Lord has intended **each and every generation** since His ascension to living **in the constant state of expectancy**.*

The Bible Has Never Been Wrong

4b. Can I anticipate the Rapture to happen?

Acts 1:9-11

Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. **:10** And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, **:11** who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

Colossians 3:4

When Christ *who is our life* **appears**, **then** you also will appear with Him in glory.

!!! Revelation 19 !!!

4c. How do I prepare for the Rapture?

Get / Keep your life
“Jesus-Ready”

Jude 21

Keep yourselves in the love of God, **looking** for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

tereo, *tay-reh'-o* = to set a guard or a post. A lookout, to scan the horizon.

There is a marked difference between those who are waiting and those who think that Jesus cannot come back so soon.

Colossians 3:2

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. :3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Living Before Him in Real Time Makes You Ready

It's going to be **hard** / it's going to **cost** you /

1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. :3 **And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

COME TO THE CROSS TODAY

End of Study

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