

Paul's First Epistle To The

**THESSALONIANS**

CHAPTER 4:13-18

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**TITLE:**

**" RAPTURE! HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO GO " - PT.1**  
**AWAITING THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST**

**THEME:**

***1 Thessalonians 1:10***

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

Mark Twain Said;

"a lie can run around the world twice before the truth ever gets his shoes on"

In the Thessalonian Church, Conversations and open letters were being circulated throughout the churches that Jesus was not coming back at or that he had already come back and what awaited them was certain death.

Paul Breaks from the Practical Instruction about holy living to the  
**APPROPRIATE PROPHETIC DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE**

The Return of Jesus Christ is intended to be a comforting event for those who know him... and Knowing him is the key to the prophetic word - The Bible !!!

Revelation 19:10

Worship God! For **the testimony** of Jesus is **the spirit of prophecy.**"

***Keep This Very Important Truth in Mind***

*That of all the fulfilled Prophecies of the Bible to date  
every single one of them were fulfilled literal, - as described in the Bible*

It's been said that

"We are living in signs of the times

But actually that's not true. We are seeing the forerunners to these terrible Signs & Times that are to Come upon the Earth

What's taking place right now is the alignment of the Global scenario and players

**According to the Bible,  
The End of this world cannot happen until first there is;**

- #1 A NATION BECAME A NATION AGAIN - CALLED ISRAEL (may 14, 1948)
- #2 ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO RETURN JERUSALEM (june 1967)
- #3 THAT A UNITED STATES OF EUROPE WOULD FORM (jan 1, 1981)
- #4 THAT THE SOVIET EMPIRE WOULD FRACTURE (1989 - rosh)
- #6 THAT THERE WOULD BE A SERIES OF PEACE TREATIES (1993 -
- #5 THAT JERUSALEM, THE CITY WOULD BECOME THE FOCUS (daily)
- #7 THAT THERE WOULD INTENSIFYING DISASTERS (worldwide)
- #8 THAT THE GLOBAL ECONOMIES WOULD BE IN DISREPAIR
- #9 THAT WORLD CURRENCIES WOULD YEILD TO ELECTRONIC TRADE
- #10 THAT A RUSSIA ASSISTED, MUSLIM ALLIANCE WOULD ATTACK ISRAEL

**The News This Morning is that:**

Israel's New President is not in support of the peace process and it is that platform that got him elected !!!

**The News This Morning is that:**

that the United Sates is concerned about having a strong military minded president this fall in light of Israel's changes and...

**The News This Morning is that:**

That Russia is expected to vote communism back in on June 16 which will re-establish the cold war which never really thawed out in the first place

Jesus said "When you see these Things Begin to Happen  
Look up for Redemption, Your going to heaven draws Near!

## The Problem With Death

Throughout mans existence the mystery of death has captured his attention and fears. Oddly enough though - most of us tend to willfully neglect the fact - that death is coming to our door someday in the not too distant future! We do all we can to avoid talking about it. We see the Rose Hills or Forest Lawn Mortuary T.V. advertisement just long enough to turn the channel! - None the less - the records show clearly that out of every 10 people, 10 of those people will experience death! - (800 Billion dollar business) But the very thought of death causes some of you to be very uneasy.

# As long as we feel healthy

and fit we feel that we can flirt with the thought of death and even joke about it!

## **But Philosophers**

have wrestled with the question of immortality

## **Spiritists**

have sought to communicate with the dead

## **Even Our Modern Technology**

has gotten into the search for the door that leads to the other side

Then There's Harry Houdini, The greatest of all escape artists.... Harry boasted about being able to trick death. So he asked that at his death a telephone be placed inside his coffin so that when he was loosed from death's grip he could call some one to dig him up - Harry must have had a bad connection! Either that or his line was dead!!!

## **The Truth is - Harry Couldn't Pay His Bill**

But Jesus Preached and Taught on Death and the After Life  
more than anyone else in the Bible

## **Luke 16:19 Lazarus & the Wealthy Master**

### How The Church Ought to Go...

#### **1.) The Hope of the Church vv. 13-14**

#### **Verse 13**

**"But I do not want you to be ignorant,**

Ignorant in relation to (3) Three key Biblical Doctrines

**#1**

**The Location** of departed "Christians" **vv. 13**

**#2**

**The Bodily** Resurrection of those Departed **vv. 16**

**#3**

**The Rapture** of those who escape Death **vv. 17**

- \* **Ignorant** GRK 50 agnoeo (ag-no-eh'-o)  
the will of the heart - to not know something. to intentionally ignore, thus we get the term IGNOR - RAMUS one who ignores (root of Agnostic)

“concerning those who have fallen **asleep**,  
lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.”

**(Their Pagan Culture believed in  
Annihilation after death - a non Existence)**

Death was the final act to them - the end of all consequences

**They Argued that** if the body was lifeless and unresponsive  
like temporary sleep (so must be the man - lifeless and unresponsive, asleep forever)

## Paul Argues Back - NO!

The “Sleepy” Appearance Only Refers to the Body Not the Spirit-Soul

- \* **Sleep** GRK 2838 koimesis (koy'-may-sis)  
to lay down, to repose. To be taking of rest.

James 2:26  
the body without the spirit is dead,

Notice that They are Both With Him in Heaven Now  
but He will resurrect their bodies at the rapture

2 Corinthians 5:6  
So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home, (living) in the body we are absent  
from the Lord..... :8 We are confident, yes, well pleased  
rather to be absent from this body and to be present with the Lord.

Hope! - is in The Lord

**others who have no hope.**

## Verse 14

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so...  
“God will bring with Him” **those** who sleep in Jesus.

### How The Church Ought to Go...

## 2.) Is in The Power of God vv. 15-16

### Verse 15a

#### On The Authority of God Himself

For this we say to you **by the word of the Lord,**

John 11:25

Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. (That's a continuum)  
He who believes in Me, (that's presently) though he may die, (yet future) yet shall he live.

Job 19:26

And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God,

### Verse 15b

...that **we** who are alive and remain until **the coming** of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

\* **The Coming GRK 3952 parousia (par-oo-see'-ah)**  
a being near physically, a physical advent

### Resurrection! - of the Christian Dead

- #1 First the bodies of those who had died will arise ascending upward
- #2 We will in an instant be raptured and (metamorpho) changed. Ascending just behind the resurrected as their new bodies will meet up with their reality

1 Corinthians 15:52

:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, (18/100's of a second) at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and **the dead** (those guys) will be raised incorruptible, and **we** (us guy's) shall be changed.

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## NOTHING NEEDS TO HAPPEN PRIOR TO

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there is no biblical or non biblical event that is required or needed before the rapture takes place....

### Verse 16

For **the Lord Himself** (God, Jesus) will descend from heaven **#1** with a shout, **#2** with the voice of an archangel, and **#3** with the trumpet of God. And **the dead in Christ will rise first.**

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### The Doctrine of the Resurrection

is not a New Testament Revelation Only

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Job 14:13-15 & 19;23-27 & Psalms 16:9-11 & Dan. 12:2

The Pharisees Held to the Doctrine & It was Taught by Paul and All of the disciples

Philippians 3:20

....we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, Phil 3:21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body,

### Turn to 1 Corinthians 15:46-57

This body is the seed side of things    The New Body is the Flower side of things

note The sequence of the events

#1 It will be with the Shout of the Lord

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**Shout GRK 2752 keleusma (kel'-yoos-mah) or keleuma**

a cry of incitement. To rally an Army. To issue a command

Joshua 6:20

So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

#2 It will be with The voice of the archangel

#3 It will be with The Trumpet of God

(the world will probably not hear or see a thing in relation to the rapture proper - just the effects)

### How The Church Ought to Go In...

3.) The Rapture of God

vv. 17-18

Rapture! - Now You See Me, Now You

Verse 17a

THIS IS EXHORTATION  
# 4 AS IN EACH CHAPTER OF THE BOOK

Then **we** who are alive and remain.....

**We (Paul used the "We" Pronoun)**

4 times in 6 verses Paul uses the "We" statements concerning the Lord's return are made. In 51 AD. Paul believed that he would be alive to see this event - The Rapture take place. In Theology, these verses responsible for giving birth to the "Doctrine of Imminent Return" meaning that Jesus could come without warning and at any moment.

Paul put himself in this rank of believers  
who awaited, expected, anticipated

Verse 17b

## The Rapture Itself

We 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.

\* **Caught up** GRK har-pad'-zo  
to catch-away, to pluck or pull out by force an instantaneous removal

## (Harpadzo Appears 18 Times in the new Testament)

- |                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. To Take away with Great Speed    | Matt 13:19 the seed being stolen      |
| 2. To Seize By Force                | Jude 1:23 saving by pulling them fire |
| 3. To Take as One's Sole possession | Acts 8:39 Phillip & Ethiopian         |
| 4. To Move to a New Place           | 2 Cor 12:2 Paul's vision of Heaven    |
| 5. <b>To Rescue From Danger</b>     | John 10:28 Jesus' hands               |

## The Great Escape

1 Thessalonians 5:9  
For God did not appoint us to **wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our  
Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thessalonians 1:10  
we are to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even  
Jesus who delivers us from the **wrath** to come.

Revelation 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.**

### Verse 17c

"And thus **we** (a collective we) shall always be with the Lord."

### We Are To Await His Return

## Waiting Takes Faith and It Displays Faith

### Together With Them

### But A Change is Needed

for entrance into His heaven and into His presence

1 Corinthians 15:53  
For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. :54 So when this  
corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the  
saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."



## Understand - This Body is Dying as we Speak

We now have advanced formulas of Formaldehyde to keep us fresh because we're dying - formulas like Chanel #5 Obsession and for those hovering on the brink - Old Spice

**For Christmas I saw the one I wanted - It's called Rapture!!!**

**Seriously** - We are Decaying - death has begun it's work, we need to change our clothes so to speak.... but that's OK. Because where we are going - we cannot take this carcass as it is

1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be like, 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.

## What a Time We Will Have...

Matthew 8:11

"And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

### c) Forever With Him

John 14:2-3

"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. "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. )

### WHY WILL IT HAPPEN?

Because God has set a time where He will let human government fulfill all of it's desires. Man has rejected God and the Nations have rejected God and so the Bible speaks of a coming event that will rid the earth of these narrow-minded, bible- believing, fundamental Christians who are a bunch of do gooders!

### **BUT READ THE FINE PRINT**

God will be judging severely this world and those who have refused Him beginning first with the nations of the world - Armageddon

### CAN IT HAPPEN?

Of course it can - Captain Kirk's been doing it every night for 20 years

## Caterpillars & Seeds

## Verse 18

:18 Therefore **comfort** one another with these words.

the return of Jesus Christ is an exclusive event for His chosen few

where we are going is our utmost passion!

## It Prioritizes Life

### Have You Noticed, When in a Difficulty

Time has Past - How quick we are to forget the struggle and the pain  
(Delivery + Birth = Baby = Joy)

### There is a Purpose to the Pain

For the Christian it can be said (Death + Life = Jesus = Joy)

### There is a Purpose to the Pain

2 Corinthians 4:17

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

## It is to be Our Ultimate Goal

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 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?

## c) Whether We Live or Die We Have This Hope

2 Timothy 4:6

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-- and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.

# Paul Didn't See The Lord's Return... But Told us what to Listen for... - That Shout of His !!!

There's a story that comes out of children's hospital at USC where Tony, a beautiful, little, black 5 year old boy had been faithful to undergo his chemotherapy treatments to fight off the cancer that invaded him.

His mother was all that he had - his dad left home when he found out that Tony's mom had become pregnant with him.

The doctor had broken to mom the news that she had long dreaded to hear "Ms. Robert's he said rather direct but with a look of compassion, Little Tony has 3 to 5 days at best. He's lost the war Ms. Robert's. He's fought longer and harder than any of us could have. Ms. Robert's, • his pain will unbearably increase, • his memory will begin to fail and • he will soon assume the fetal position and from that point it will not be long. Ms. Robert's, Tony needs to be going soon. And in your way, the only way that you his mother can do, you need to comfort him the best you can! And with that he turned and walked away.

So mustering all the strength that she had inside of her and calling out to God for some extra - she walked into his hospital room that had become his home and held his bony little body and kissed his head that was once crowned with the blackest, curliest hair ever and she told him, honey, **Jesus is coming soon! Sweetheart and He's coming for you - you don't worry about mama cuz I'll be right behind you.** "But Mama, Tony asked "How will I know it's Jesus?" "You just listen for the Bell" she said - **Jesus will be ringing a bell when He comes for you**" and with that little Tony fell asleep in her arms.

Two days later, very early in the morning her phone rang with the news "Ms. Robert's Little Tony's in distress and we're losing him" Quickly she drove the 30 minute drive only to have arrived too late. Tony had slipped into eternity just as she pulled into the parking lot at USC. Asking the nurse who was with him at that moment and how his night was - she told of a very difficult struggle and terrible pain that kept him crying most of the night but she hesitated to tell that just when the battle seemed to be at it's worst, right before he died, he became unusually calm and he opened his eyes and said to me "**Ms. Betty..... do you hear em'? Do you hear those bells? Ms. Betty.... I can hear the bells**" and at that he went away!

"Therefore you also be ready,  
for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."