



1 Thessalonians 4:15-18
The Rapture of the Church
From Sermon 3.6.22

Read *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

Review from Sunday's sermon: This week's lesson and last week's lesson go hand in hand. They both contain the doctrine of Christ's return for His Church and what happens to two groups: those who died first and those alive on that day. These are pastoral words of comfort and hope. They are an outline that needs the whole of Scripture to fully see. However, the rapture is not a view held by most historic groups.

1. What is the biblical doctrine of the Rapture? That Christ, before the Tribulation (pre-trib view) will return with the souls of those who have died in the Lord, unite them with resurrected, glorified bodies, and snatch those still alive from the earth, transform their bodies to glorified ones. They believers will stay with Christ, physically, forever after.

[The same Greek word (harpazo) is used elsewhere. See *Acts 8:38-40* (Philip) & *2 Corinthians 12:2-4* (Paul)]

2. When will the Rapture take place? We are Not given the day and date. It is both futile and dangerous to prophesy and set one. This has been the practice of, what's called, Hyper-dispensationalism.

2a. However, what signs did Jesus say would precede it? Israel will be a nation. Global unification. Wars and rumors of wars. Natural disasters. Various diseases. Economic upheaval. A truthless Church.

2b. Which of those are we seeing in the world today? All of them. There is nothing in the prophetic timetable preventing a rapture. The last person on this side of time will accept Christ, then we go.

3. Until that day of rapture comes, what did Jesus instruct and commission? See *Acts 1:6-8*. We are to go. Go be in the world, but not of the world. Be a witness in our daily lives. Be the church on earth/be light.

4. What were the 5 Consequences of the Rapture taught on Sunday? Discuss each.

- Union. See *John 14:1-3*
- Reunion—with those who have gone on before us.
- Glorious Physiological Change. See *1 Corinthians 15:50-58*
- Believer's Judgment. *Romans 14:10&12, 2 Corinthians 5:10*, Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25)
- The Launching of the Tribulation

5. What questions do you still have concerning the Rapture? Various personal answers

5a. What fears or apprehensions do you entertain? Various personal answers.