

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scripture(s) for Today: 1 Thess 4:13-18 – The Christian Walk: Part 4 – *Walk in Hope*

Today's Message:

**"The Rapture"**



## INTRODUCTION

Last week, we continued our study of the Christian walk that pleases God. Thus far, we have learned to walk in holiness, brotherly love, and honesty. Today, we will conclude the chapter with walking in **HOPE**. Specifically, we will learn that God has given us this definitive passage in the Bible to teach of a glorious event that will shortly come to pass. There are **NO** prophecies needed to be fulfilled before Jesus Christ comes for His saints in the clouds. However, tragically, many Bible colleges and scholars have sought to corrupt the word of God by teaching heresies concerning this event. May God add His blessing to the studying of His words today so that all may understand and look for our blessed **HOPE!**

## LEARNING TOGETHER

### A. The Text 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

**#1. Walk in Holiness** – Paul beseeches them to *abstain from fornication*. (1-8)

**#2. Walk in Love** – Paul beseeches them to *increase in brotherly love*. (9-10)

**#3. Walk in Honesty** – Paul beseeches them to *walk honestly*. (11-12)

**#4. Walk in Hope** – Paul assures the saints of the glorious **RAPTURE**. (13-18)

#### THE CONTEXT OF THE PASSAGE

- ✓ There were believers who were concerned about **SAVED** saints who had died.
  - The word “*asleep*” in this passage is found 2 times.
    - **4:13** – ...concerning **them which are asleep**, that ye sorrow not...
    - **4:15** – ...even so **them also which sleep in Jesus** will God bring with him.
    - **4:16** – ...shall not prevent **them which are asleep**.
    - **4:17** – ...and **the dead in Christ** shall rise first.
  - The word is also used for a state of actual sleeping – **Jonah 1:5; Mt 8:24; 26:40**

**W1828: “asleep”**  
 Sleeping; in a state of sleep; at rest.  
 Dead; in a state of death.

#### THE WORD RAPTURE

- ✓ The word “*rapture*” is not found in the King James Bible. (**4:17**)
  - The phrase found in the KJB is “*caught up*” – which is what is being described!
  - There are other common words not found in the KJB – “**TRINITY**” and “**BIBLE**”

**2022 VISION: This is our time!**  
*Making disciples and caring for souls!*

**WHAT IS THE RAPTURE?**

- ✓ The Rapture is the **NEXT** event on God's calendar when Jesus Christ catches us away!
  - There are 2 key passages in the Bible on the Rapture – **4:13-18; 1Cor 15:50-54**
  - The doctrine of the Rapture is 1 of 7 NT **MYSTERIES** (*once hidden, now revealed*).
  - Jesus Christ Himself shall **DESCEND** from heaven in the clouds – **4:16; Rev 1:7**
  - Jesus Christ will say to us, "**COME up hither!**" – **Rev 4:1; 11:12; Prov 25:7**
  - Jesus Christ will meet us in the **AIR** but will not come to the earth **yet**. **Acts 1:11**
  - The earth will not **SEE this** event: they will no doubt feel the impact! **Lk 17:24**
- ✓ The Rapture will be an **instantaneous transformation** of our bodies to fit **ETERNITY!**
  - The event will happen in a **MOMENT**, in *the twinkling of an eye!* **1Cor 15:51-52**
  - We will get a new glorified **BODY** like our Lord Jesus Christ. **1Jo 3:2; Jn 20:19,26**

**W1828:** "rapture"  
Seizing suddenly by  
force; transport;  
hurrying along.

**NOTE** This great and glorious event should be at the top of our mind every single day! We will be with our Lord in His presence for ever and ever, and we will not sin any more! The goal of this truth is to give us COMFORT! So comfort one another!!

**WHEN WILL THE RAPTURE OCCUR?**

- ✓ The Bible teaches clearly of a **BEFORE** JUDGMENT (*Pre-Tribulation*) Rapture!
  - God has not appointed His Church to **WRATH!** **1:10; 5:9; Rev 4:1** (*Church gone!*)
  - God translated **ENOCH** (type of Church) before judgment! (*No death!*) **Heb 11:5**
  - God removed **NOAH** and family in the ark before judgment! **Heb 11:7; Lk 17:26**
  - God removed **LOT** before He rained hell fire and judgment! **Gen 19:22; Lk 17:28**
  - God removed **RAHAB** the Gentile harlot before judgment! **Josh 2:1; 6:17; 20-25**
  - Solomon called for his Shulamite bride to *rise up* and **COME away!** **Song 2:8-13**
  - Isaiah prophesied to God's people to **COME**, hide before judgment! **Isa 26:20-21**

**NOTE** In the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses shall all things be established: it is settled then!!

**A WORD ABOUT OPPOSING IDEAS**

- ✓ A person does not come away with any other **TIMING** of the Rapture with just a Bible.
  - Anything other than Pre-Tribulation is **NOT** rightly dividing Scripture! **2Tim 2:15**

**NOTE** The timing of the Rapture must be FIRST, then 7 years of wrath, then 2nd Coming!

**B. The Application** (How will you apply this truth to your life?)

1. *The Rapture event with all details known in advance is to be a blessed **HOPE!***

**QUESTION** What is your hope? What is more comforting/exciting than meeting our Lord?

2. *The Rapture event could happen today and at any moment: are you **READY?***

**QUESTION** Are you saved? Faithful? Are you diligently doing the work of the Lord now?

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