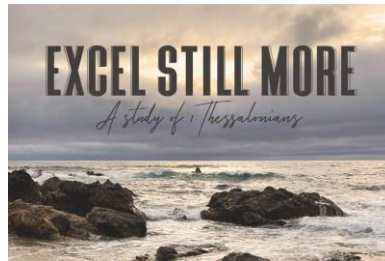


DISCIPLE'S QUEST

*If you continue in My word, then you are
truly disciples of Mine.*

John 8:31



January 21, 2024

1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 18

The Rapture

Main Idea:

When the believer dies, his soul goes immediately into the presence of Christ. Later, at the Rapture, which may take place at any time, these saints will "rise first," receiving their resurrection body an instant, prior to those believers remaining alive until the event. This blessed assurance means that Christians should not mourn the passing of their brothers and sisters in Christ as though without hope.

Outline:

- 1) The Problem: Some of the Thessalonians were grieving the loss of their believing loved ones to death as though they had no hope.

- 2) The Remedy: The knowledge of what happens to a Christian after death.

Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

#1 Read Romans 1:16-23. What excuse can the unbelieving make for choosing to reject God and instead devise false religions?

#2 According to Romans 1:20, the evidence for the existence of God in creation alone is sufficient to prove His existence. What revelation and knowledge of God is necessary before a person can believe and receive salvation? Can you support your answer with Scripture?

#3 Upon death, the soul of the believer in Jesus immediately enters into His presence in heaven (Luke 23:43). When will the dead in Christ receive their resurrection bodies?

What happens to the unbelieving at the time of death? Read Luke 16:19-31 for clarification.

#4 How would you explain the Rapture to a confused believing friend? What important implications would you bring to his attention?

#5 What do we mean when we say that the Rapture should be viewed as an imminent event? What are the applicational implications?