

First Pastor Joshua Brunette

1. The unification of the body of Christ at the Rapture of the Church is a Core doctrine of Scripture.

- a. The teaching of the “Blessed Hope” of the return of Christ for His Church aligns the church with the teachings of Jesus when He said He will come for His people and take them to be where He is.
- b. **John 14:1-4** “Do not let your heart be troubled; [a]believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many [b]rooms; if that were not so, [c]I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you also will be. 4 And you know the way where I am going.”
  - i. The rapture is when Christ fulfills this promise. We must leave to go be with Him where He is. Currently Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father and will come and get us.
- c. **Romans 8:23** <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.
  - i. The bodies we currently have are corrupt and they must either die or be replaced with a new body that does not have the corruption of the fall of Adam.
- d. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:51-55** <sup>51</sup> Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep(Die), but we will all be changed— <sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we (**the living**) will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.<sup>54</sup> So when this

corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.<sup>55</sup> O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

- i. **The rapture happens suddenly as human flesh cannot enter into Heaven.**
- ii. **The body must be put off and the Spirit will instantly be given a new body as we rise into Heaven to be with the Lord.**

e. **1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:16-17** <sup>16</sup> For the **Lord himself will come down from heaven**, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are **still alive** and are left will be **caught up** (Greek: Harpazo or Raptured) together with them **in the clouds** to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with **the Lord forever**.

- i. **Jesus Himself will come and get us, the word rapture means to be pulled out of the way of impending danger. Christ will rescue the faithful church from the time of the tribulation.**

f. **Titus 2:11- 13** <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, <sup>[a]</sup>bringing salvation to all people, <sup>12</sup> <sup>[b]</sup>instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously, and in a godly manner in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for **the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of** <sup>[c]</sup>**our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,**

- i. **The blessed Hope is when Christ will return for His people the church. We are to look for this moment with great anticipation always denying the evil of this world to be ready when He comes.**

2. This doctrine is important because it reminds the believer that reads the gospels, prophetic literature and the books of revelations that as Christians we are not looking for the anti-Christ, but we are looking for the coming Jesus Christ.
  - a. When Jesus returns, He is not setting up His Kingdom, but He will take the saints of His Kingdom to the marriage supper of the lamb and the Bema Seat of judgement where He will reward the faithful for their service.
  - b. **Question:** Jesus comes back with the saints at the end of the tribulation to begin His millennial Kingdom, how did they get to Heaven? Did they all die? If they died, how do they come back with glorified bodies? Answer: The resurrection of the righteous is at rapture of the saints when we will receive our immortal bodies.
3. **During the 7-year tribulation upon earth it is more than likely that the church will not be a partaker of this terrible time of judgement. The rapture is God's grace, reward and promise to the those who have been faithful to Him.**
  - a. **There is a terminal generation that will not fulfill its full life span because God will spare it from the wrath to come during the tribulation.**
  - b. **Jesus alluded to this generation in Matthew 24:33-35.**
  - c. **Matthew 24:33-35** <sup>33</sup> so you too, when you see all these things, <sup>[a]</sup>recognize that <sup>[b]</sup>He is near, *right* at the <sup>[c]</sup>door. <sup>34</sup> Truly I say to you, **this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.** <sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.
  - d. Do we see a picture of the Rapture in the Old Testament? Yes
    - i. Enoch walked with God and was no more for God took Him.
    - ii. Elijah was a powerful prophet of God; He did not see death but instead God took Him to Heaven where He is preserved for a different purpose.

- iii. Noah and His family were told to get in the ark so that they could be spared from the wrath of the flood that would destroy the whole world.
- iv. The Old Testament example of Abrahams nephew Lot and his family were spared destruction with the wicked of Sodom and Gomorrah because they were not wicked like the inhabitants of there city.
- v. Jesus says in **Luke 21:36** But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have **strength to escape all these things** that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”
- vi. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:53-55** 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

4. In an ancient Jewish wedding, the bridegroom would come suddenly for the bride at an hour when she did not know, and the bride would come to meet her groom. When friends of groom came, they would “lift her up” and take her to the Grooms Fathers house for the wedding feast to begin.

a. **Matthew 25 1-10 The 10 Virgins**

b. 1“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take along any extra oil. 4But the wise ones took oil in flasks along with their lamps. 5When the bridegroom **was delayed**; they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ 7Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their

lamps. 8The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 9'No,' said the wise ones, 'or there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10But while they were on their way to buy it, **the bridegroom arrived**. (We must be ready before Jesus comes) **Those who were ready went in** with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut.

- c. **1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5: 1 – 4** 1Now about the times and seasons, brothers, we do not need to write to you. 2For you are fully aware that the Day of the Lord will come **like a thief in the night**. 3While people are saying, "Peace and security," destruction will **come upon them suddenly**, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4But you, brothers, are **not in the darkness** so that this day should **overtake you like a thief**. \*\*  
**Nothing should be taken from the church because we will not be overtaken by the "Day of the Lord" which is a reference to the time of His judgement upon the earth. We will not partake of this time because of the doctrine of the "Blessed Hope" when Christ shall return for His Bride.**
- d. **Matthew 24:44** **44**For this reason, you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an **hour you do not expect**.

5. The Teaching of the rapture is clear in scripture, it is imminent meaning Christ can come at any moment. Jesus did not want His disciples to fall asleep since He was going to be a long time in coming back. A healthy understanding of the rapture of the church will allow each believer to live sober-minded and will help them to keep their lamps trimmed and oil ready as the world gets darker.