

Evidence of a Healthy Church: Sanctification in the Midst of Grief; part2

1. Review: Comfort in the Midst of Grief (vs.13)

- A. Paul's _____ in this passage is pastoral, to comfort those grieving over pain and loss. vs13,18
- B. Paul answers the question: what happens to Christians when they die?
 - 1. They are "asleep"; Gk. where we get the word, cemetery; sleeping place, dormitory
 - 2. Unique for Christians'; bodies are unconscious, but our spirit is eternally conscious!
 - *John11:11; 1Cor15:6,18,51; **2Cor5:8; Ex.Acts7:59-60**, and thief on the cross – Today, you will
 - 3. Our bodies will be awakened, NEW, by Christ, united w/ our spirit! **Jn5:25; 1Cor15:51-53**
- C. So, we do not "grieve" like the lost world, who has no _____ – **NO** finality for a true believer!
 - *Christians **NEVER** truly say good-bye, as NOT to see our loved ones again; we will be reunited at the great gathering of the Church, the Bride of Christ, and we will know/recognize each other!
 - *1Thess4:17; 1Thess2:19-20; 2Thess2:1; 2Cor4:14**

2. Foundations of the Rapture: great gathering up of Church, **NOT** O.T. saints to Christ in the air! Vs.14-17

- A. Remember: _____ is word for "caught up"; snatched up w/ extreme force
 - 1. Always used in times of distress to comfort, **NEVER** even a hint of judgment ever used
 - 2. Day of the Lord, always only judgment, is AFTER Rapture, **see order**, 1Thess4,5; **2Thes2:1-3**
 - 3. God doesn't pour out wrath and judgment on His Son's Bride! **1Thess1:10; Rom8:1; Eph5**
- B. _____ of Rapture: (vs.14-15a) *death of Christ; *resurrection of Christ; *revelation of Christ
- C. Who's in the rapture? 1. "**we** who are alive" (15b) and those 2. "who have fallen asleep in Jesus" (14b)
- D. Specific Plan, Features of the Rapture: (vs.16-17) these are different than Olivet Discourse Matt24
 - 1. Lord _____ from heaven – He Himself snatches us up to Himself, takes to heaven and fulfills **John14:1-3**; He comes **FOR** us in air, 2nd coming He comes **WITH** us to earth
 - 2. With a _____: Gk, military command, Attention! Stand! ***Jn11:43; Jn5:25**
 - 3. Voice of archangel; no "the" in Gk.; no definite archangel; Jude9 speaks of Michael and in **Dan12:1-3***(Jn5:28-29) of nation of Israel, this is when O.T. saints are raised, like Job, (Rev20:4-6), after Tribulation! We know this because Dan11:36-45 speaks of anti-christ
 - 4. Trumpet of _____ – trumpets w/ Israel were used many reasons, to assemble to meet God and for deliverance – we are assembled to meet Christ in the air and delivered from this world!
 - 5. Dead **in** Christ will rise _____ – **NOTICE** "in Christ", this is the Church; asleep now awakened!
 - 6. _____ who are alive are "caught up" w/ them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air
 - *snatched w/ extreme force; same word in John10; and Philip snatched by Holy Spirit
 - *clouds of glory as the clouds Jesus ascended in, in Acts1; we are transformed! Phil3:21
 - *we meet the Lord in the air, again, not 2nd Coming, that is on earth

**The Lord snatches us up out of this fallen world; the world will rejoice we are gone, as Satan and Anti-Christ deceive; we are in heaven at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and being rewarded for our life on earth(1Cor3:13-15; 2Cor5:10); during those 7 years, God is unleashing His wrath upon the earth, the Great Tribulation, Rev6-18; then Jesus comes with us and ends that Tribulation by killing all the enemies of God!*

***Notice: Rev19:7-10, and then Rev19:11-16**

***Comfort One Another (vs.18) *2Cor1:3-10; 2Cor4:16-18; Heb12:2-3; 1Jn3:1-3**