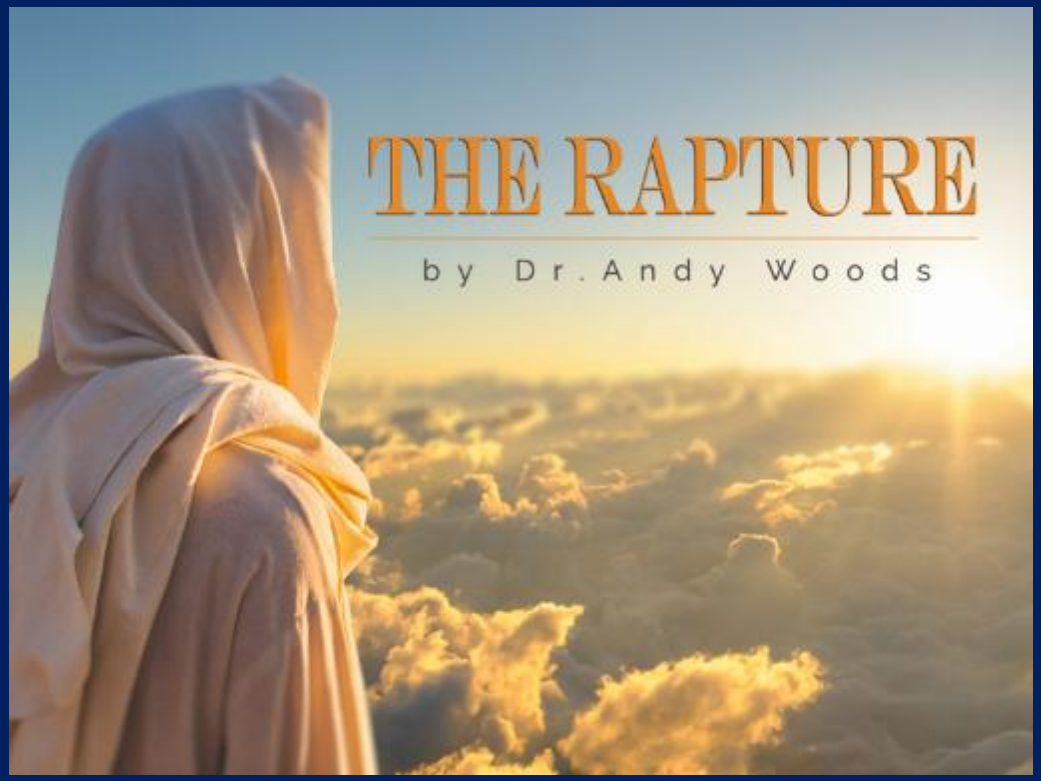
THE RAPTURE

What and When? – Part 50





Andrew Marshall Woods, Th.M., JD., PhD.

Sr. Pastor, Sugar Land Bible Church

The Rapture

Course Overview

I. What is the Rapture?

II. When is the Rapture?

III. Strengthening the Pre-Tribulational case

IV. The opposing views

V. One second after the Rapture



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What is the Rapture?



1. An important doctrine
2. Distinct from the Second Advent
3. Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
4. Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)
5. Resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-54)
6. Exemption from death (1 Cor 15:51, 54-56)
7. Instantaneous (1 Cor 15:52)
8. Mystery (1 Cor 15:51)
9. Imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
10. Traditional doctrine now being recovered

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When is the Rapture?

7 Arguments Favoring the Pre-Tribulation View

1. Tribulation's purpose concerns Israel (Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24)
2. No biblical reference to the church on earth during the Tribulation period (Rev 4-22)
3. Church is promised an exemption from divine wrath (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; Rev 3:10; 6:17)
4. Rapture is imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
5. Rapture is a comfort (1 Thess 4:18)
6. Antichrist cannot come to power until the restrainer is removed (2 Thess 2:6-7)
7. Symbolic parallels (2 Peter 2:5-9)

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Strengthening the Pre-Tribulation Case

1. John 14:1-4
2. Revelation 3:10
3. First Thessalonians 4–5
4. Second Thessalonians 2:3a
5. Matthew 24–25



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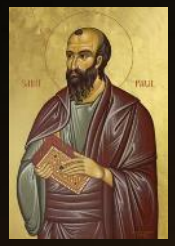
When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Tribulation Period?

- Pre-tribulation rapture theory
- Mid-tribulation rapture theory
- Post-tribulation rapture theory
- Pre-wrath rapture theory
- **Partial rapture theory**



Problems with Partial Rapturism?

1. Every divine blessing is given on the basis of His grace and not human effort (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 12:6)
2. Symbolic parallels mandate that carnal as well as sanctified Christians will be taken up in the rapture (Gen. 19:22)
3. **The promise of the rapture is mentioned in Paul's letter to the carnal Corinthian church (1 Cor. 15:51)**
4. A partial rapture would sever Christ's body (1 Cor 12:12-14)
5. The partial rapture view subjects believers to God's wrath (Thess 1:10)



1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

4 KINDS OF PEOPLE

1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual** *people* but as to **carnal**, as to **babes** in Christ.
2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it,* and even now you are still not able; 3 **for you are still carnal**. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, **are you not carnal** and behaving like *mere* **men**?



4 Kinds of People from 1 Corinthians 3:1-3



1 Corinthians 3:15

"If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."



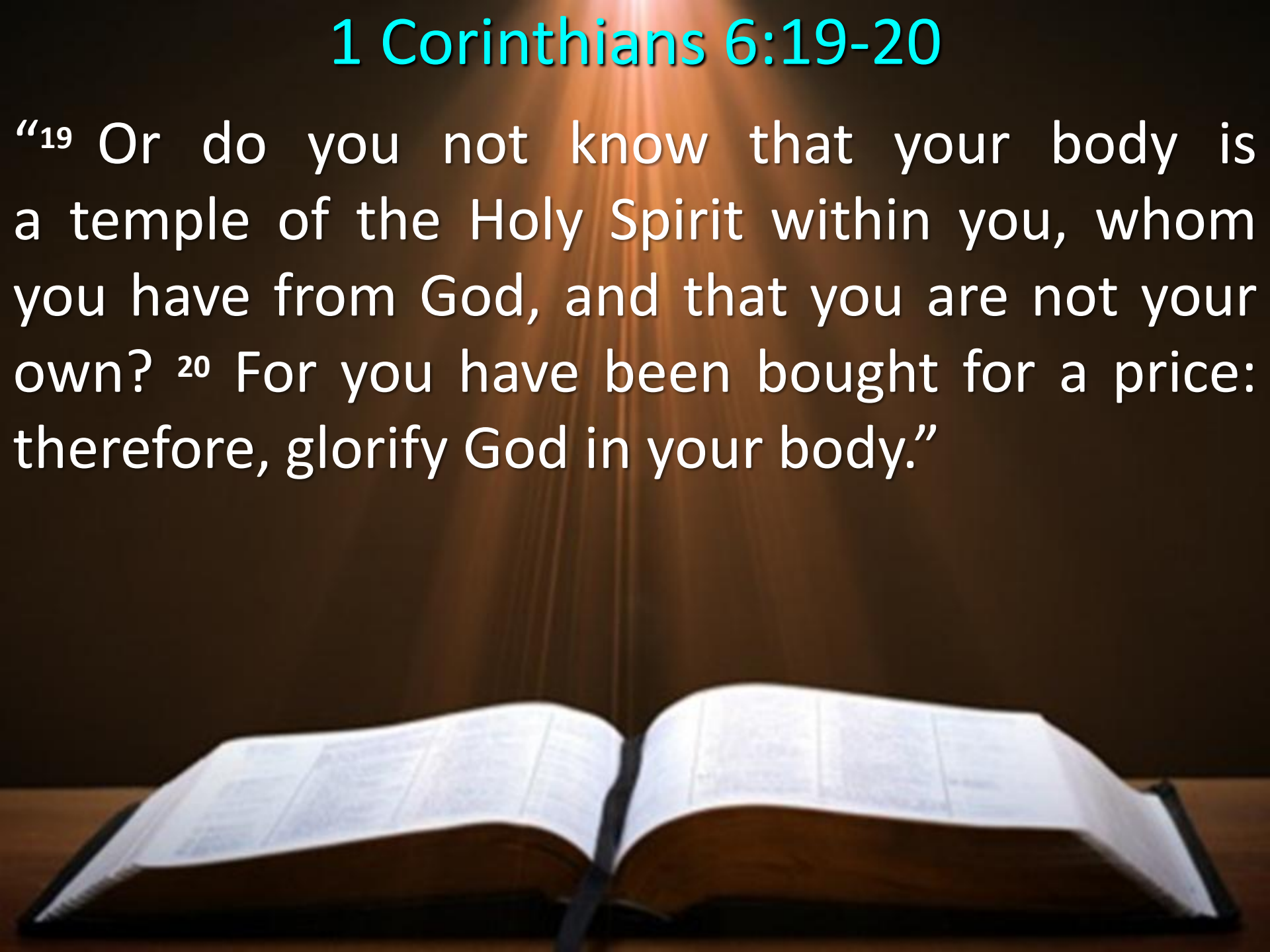
1 Corinthians 1:2

"To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been **sanctified** in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of **our** Lord Jesus Christ, **their** Lord and **ours**."



1 Corinthians 6:19-20

“19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought for a price: therefore, glorify God in your body.”



Three Tenses of Salvation

Phase	Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Tense	Past	Present	Future
Saved from sin's:	Penalty	Power	Presence
Scripture	Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5	Philip 2:12	Rom 5:10
Nature	Single	Dual	Single

Three Tenses of Salvation

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Nature	Single	Dual	Single

1 Corinthians 15:50-51

"[50] Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. [51] Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not **all** sleep, but we will **all** be changed."





Ron Rhodes

The Big Book of Bible Answers: A Guide to Understanding the Most Challenging Questions (Eugene, OR: Harvest, 2013), 279.

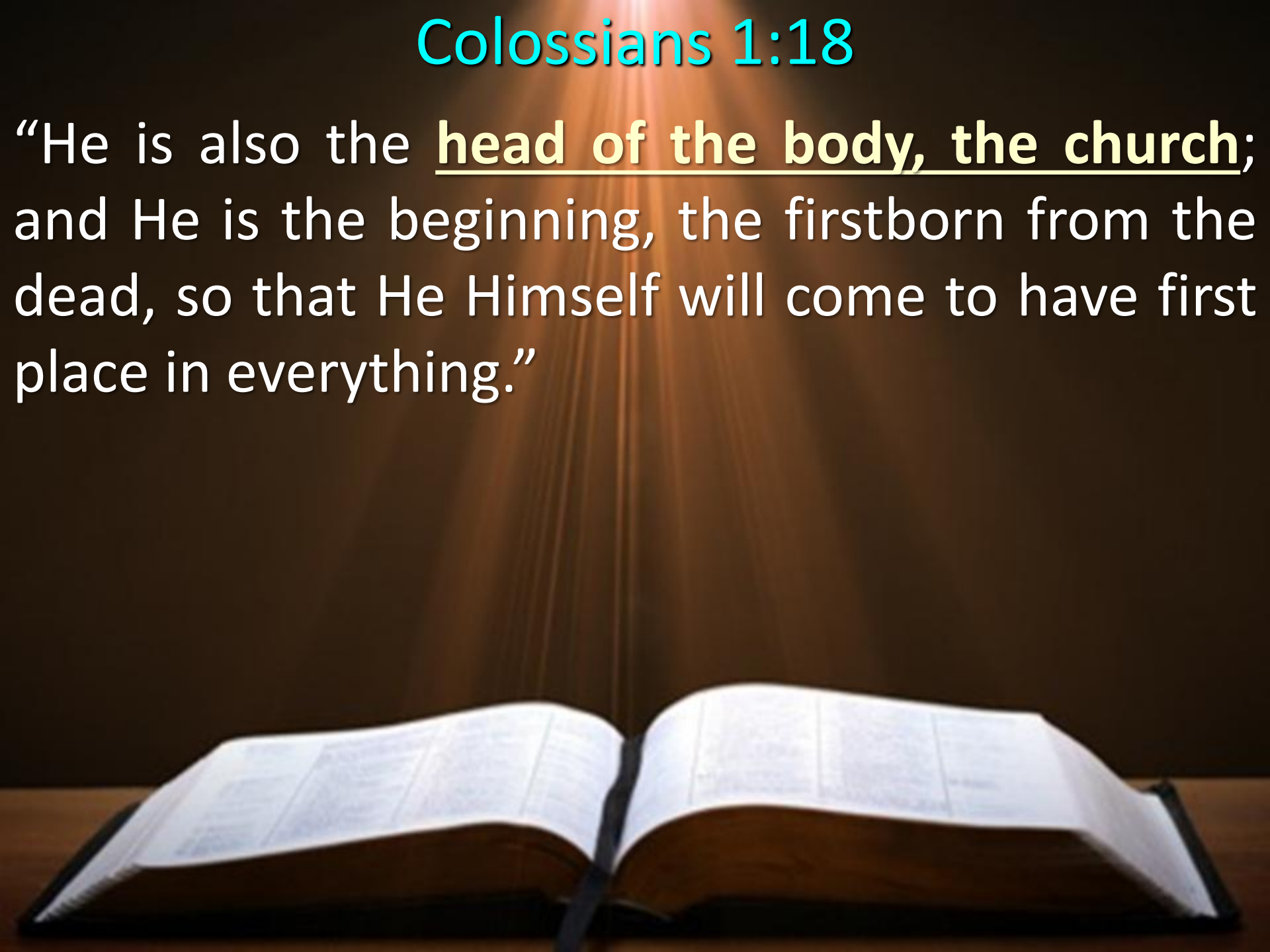
"First Corinthians 15:51 settles the issue, for it specifically tells us that 'we shall all be changed.' 'We' here includes even the carnal believers in the Corinthian church, to whom Paul was writing. None are excluded, for 'all' will be changed."

Problems with Partial Rapturism?

1. Every divine blessing is given on the basis of His grace and not human effort (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 12:6)
2. Symbolic parallels mandate that carnal as well as sanctified Christians will be taken up in the rapture (Gen. 19:22)
3. The promise of the rapture is mentioned in Paul's letter to the carnal Corinthian church (1 Cor. 15:51)
4. **A partial rapture would sever Christ's body (1 Cor 12:12-14)**
5. The partial rapture view subjects believers to God's wrath (Thess 1:10)

Colossians 1:18

"He is also the **head of the body, the church**; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything."



1 Corinthians 12:12-13

“12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”



1 Corinthians 12:25-27

“25 so that **there may be no division in the body**, but that the parts may have the same care for one another. 26 And if one part of the body suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if a part is honored, all the parts rejoice with it. 27 Now you are Christ’s body, and individually parts of it.”





Ron Rhodes

The Big Book of Bible Answers: A Guide to Understanding the Most Challenging Questions (Eugene, OR: Harvest, 2013), 279.

"If part of God's people were removed from the earth while the rest of God's people were left behind, as the partial rapture theory teaches, then Christ's body, the church, would be severed and mutilated. It is doubtful that Christ would allow this to happen to His own body. In fact, in 1 Corinthians 12:26, Paul explained, 'And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.'…Moreover, the Spirit's baptism places all believers in Christ body (1 Corinthians 12:13) and therefore all believers will be raptured (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17). The partial rapture theory denies the perfect unity in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12–13)."

What is the Rapture?



1. An important doctrine
2. Distinct from the Second Advent
3. Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
4. **Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)**
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1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 "**But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope**. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who ...



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

. . . have fallen asleep. [16] For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, **and the dead in Christ will rise first.** [17] **Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord**. [18] Therefore comfort one another with these words."





Reunion

(1 Thess 4:14-16)

- Thessalonians' concern (1 Thess 4:13)
- Dead "in Christ" (Christians) resurrected first
- Alive "in Christ" (Christians) resurrected second
- Both deceased and living Christians are taken to be with the Lord
- Do not grieve as the world grieves (1 Thess 4:13)
- Be comforted (1 Thess 4:18)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

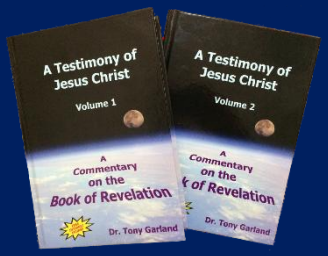
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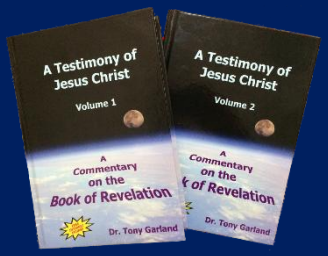




Tony Garland

Anthony Garland, "Q181 : George Peters and the Partial Rapture View," online: www.spiritandtruth.org, accessed 13 August 2015.

"To believe in a partial rapture one must either embrace the notion that salvation is insecure and can be lost or that unity with Christ is not the determining factor in whether we miss the rapture or even the kingdom to follow. But what does Paul say about who is taken in the Rapture (1 Th. 4:15-18)? 'For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first…"



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"…Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.' Notice that it is the dead, in Christ that rise first. If all of the dead in Christ are taken at the Rapture, how can it be consistent to conclude that some of the living who are also in Christ are left behind? If this were to be true, we would have the rather strange situation where the living saints would be better off dead prior to the Rapture in order to be sure they were among those taken!"



Christian Anti-Semitism

"First, their synagogues should be set on fire…Secondly, their homes should likewise be broken down and destroyed… Thirdly, they should be deprived of their prayer books and Talmuds…"



Christian Anti-Semitism

"…Fourthly, their rabbis must be forbidden under threat of death to teach any more… Fifthly, passport and traveling privileges should be absolutely forbidden to the Jews… Sixthly, they ought to be stopped from usury (charging interest on loans…"



Christian Anti-Semitism

"Seventhly, let the young and strong Jews and Jewesses be given the flail, the ax, the hoe, the spade, the distaff, and spindle, and let the earn their bread by the sweat of their noses…We ought to drive the rascally lazy bones out of our system..."



Christian Anti-Semitism

"…Therefore away with them… To sum up, dear princes and nobles who have Jews in your domains, if this advice of mine does not suit you, then find a better one so that you and we may all be free of this insufferable devilish burden–the Jews."

Martin Luther, *Concerning the Jews and Their Lies*, cited in Michael Brown's *Our Hands Are Stained with Blood*, pp. 14-15.

Problems with Partial Rapturism?

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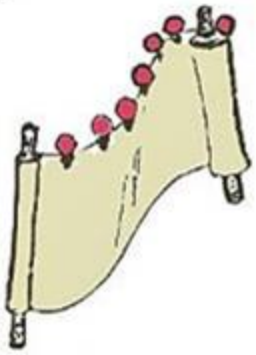
Promised Exemption from Divine Wrath

- The promise (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; 8:1; Rev 3:10)
- Tribulation = divine wrath/anger (Rev 6:16-17; 11:18; 14:10; 15:1, 7; 16:1, 19; 19:15)



Tribulation Judgments

Rapture



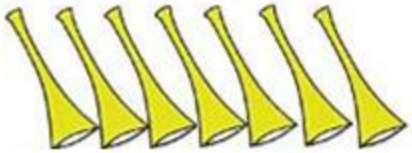
Seal Judgments
Revelation 6





Christ's Glorious Appearing

Revelation 8,9
Trumpet Judgments



Bowl (or Vial) Judgments
Revelation 15,16



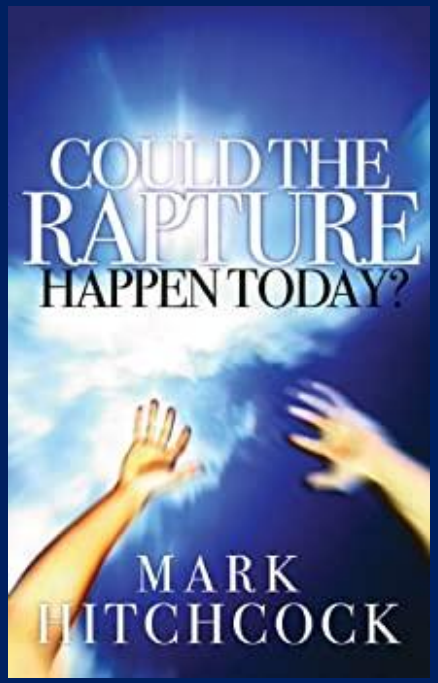
First Half of the Tribulation

Second Half of the Tribulation

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Mark Hitchcock

Could the Rapture Happen Today? (Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2005), 68.



"All believers are promised exemption from God's wrath. The partial rapture view creates a kind of a Protestant purgatory on earth during the Tribulation period. The only difference between this idea and the Catholic view of purgatory is that it would be on earth before death."

Problems with Partial Rapturism?

6. **<u>Partial rapturism makes the Bema Seat Judgment unnecessary (1 Cor. 3:10-15)</u>**
7. Partial rapturists never objectively quantify the exact degree of faithfulness or spiritual maturity that is necessary to participate in the rapture
8. Partial rapturists appear individually biased
9. Partial rapturists dispensationally misapply Bible passages (Matt. 25:1-13)
10. Partial rapturists misapply passages promising a reward to faithful believers (Rev. 3:11)

Why?

- **Not** to judge sin (John 19:30)
- **Not** to determine salvation (John 5:24)
- **But** rather to give or not give rewards



Scripture's Five Crowns
(Rev 4:10: 3:11; 2 John 8)

SCRIPTURE	CROWN	PURPOSE
1 Cor. 9:24-27	**Incorruptible**	Gaining mastery over the flesh
1 Thess. 2:19-20	**Rejoicing**	Soul winning
Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10	**Life**	Enduring trials
1 Pet. 5:2-4	**Glory**	Shepherding God's people
2 Tim. 4:8	**Righteousness**	Longing for His appearing

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

“10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw. 14 If any man’s work . . .



1 Corinthians 3:10-15

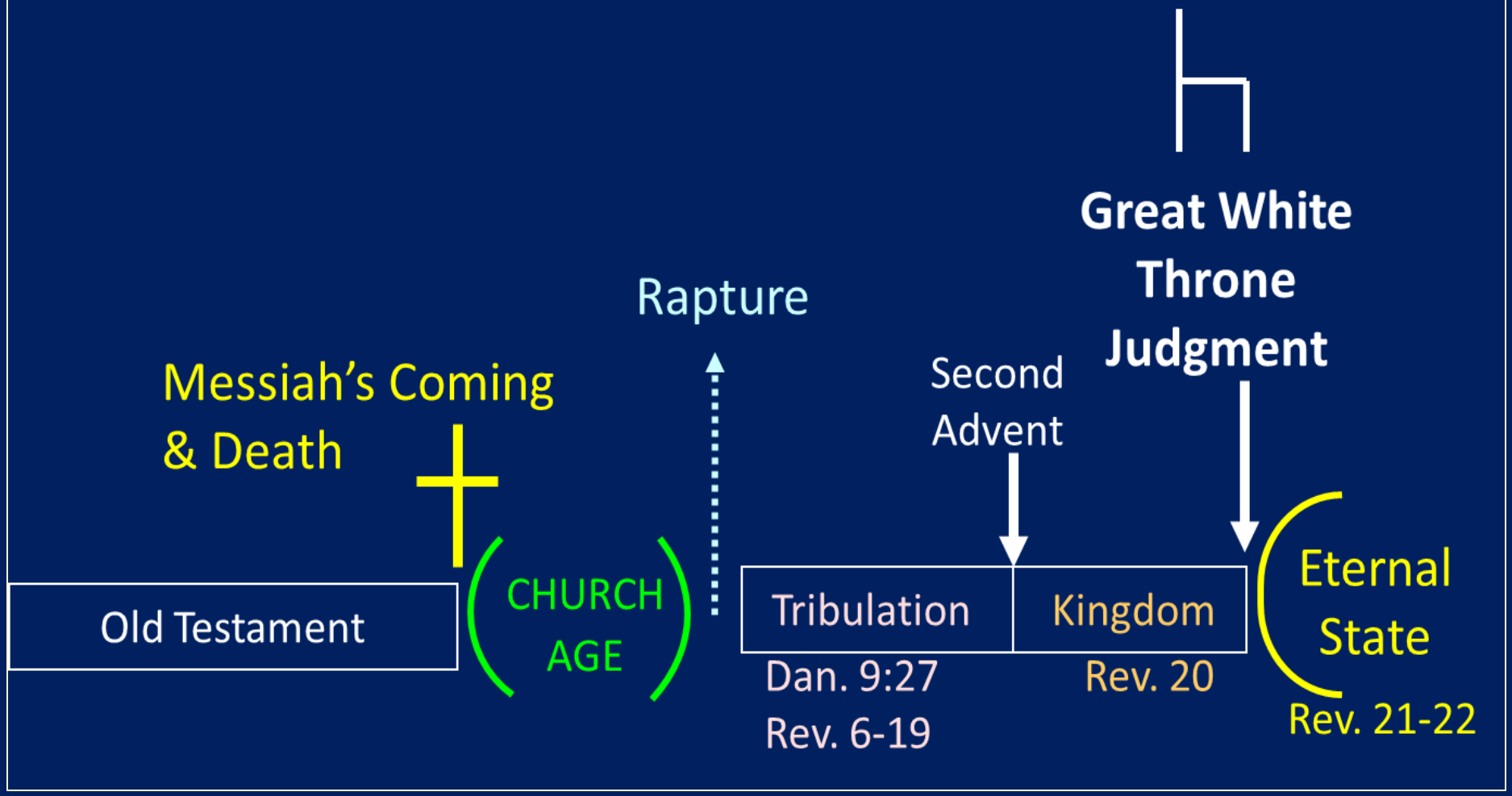
... which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. [15] If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."



Scripture's Four Judgments

Name	**Sheep and Goat**	**Judgment of the Jews**	**Bema Seat**	**Great White Throne**
Scripture	Matt 25:31-46	Ezek 20:33-44	**1 Cor 3:10-15**	Rev 20:11-15
Place	Earth, Jerusalem	Earth, wilderness	**Heaven**	Earth
Audience	Gentile Tribulation survivors	Jewish Tribulation survivors	**Church Age believers**	All unsaved
When	After Tribulation	After Tribulation	**After rapture**	After Millennium
Purpose	Saved Gentiles enter kingdom	Saved Jews enter kingdom	**Reward believers**	Degree of punishment in hell
Evaluation	Treatment of Christ's brethren	Passing under shepherd's rod	**Works taken through fire**	Not in the book; judged by books

Prophecy Panorama

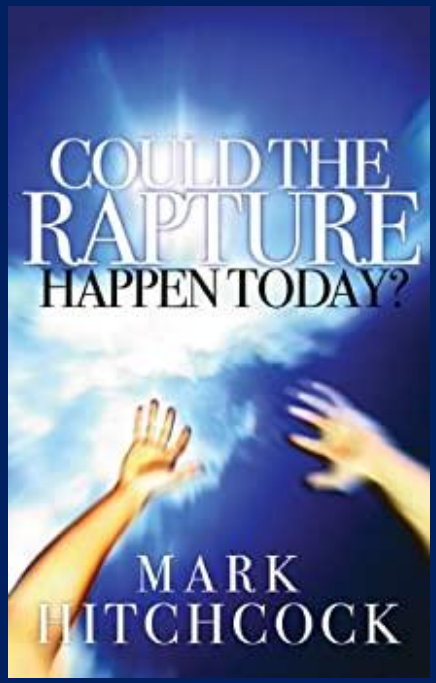


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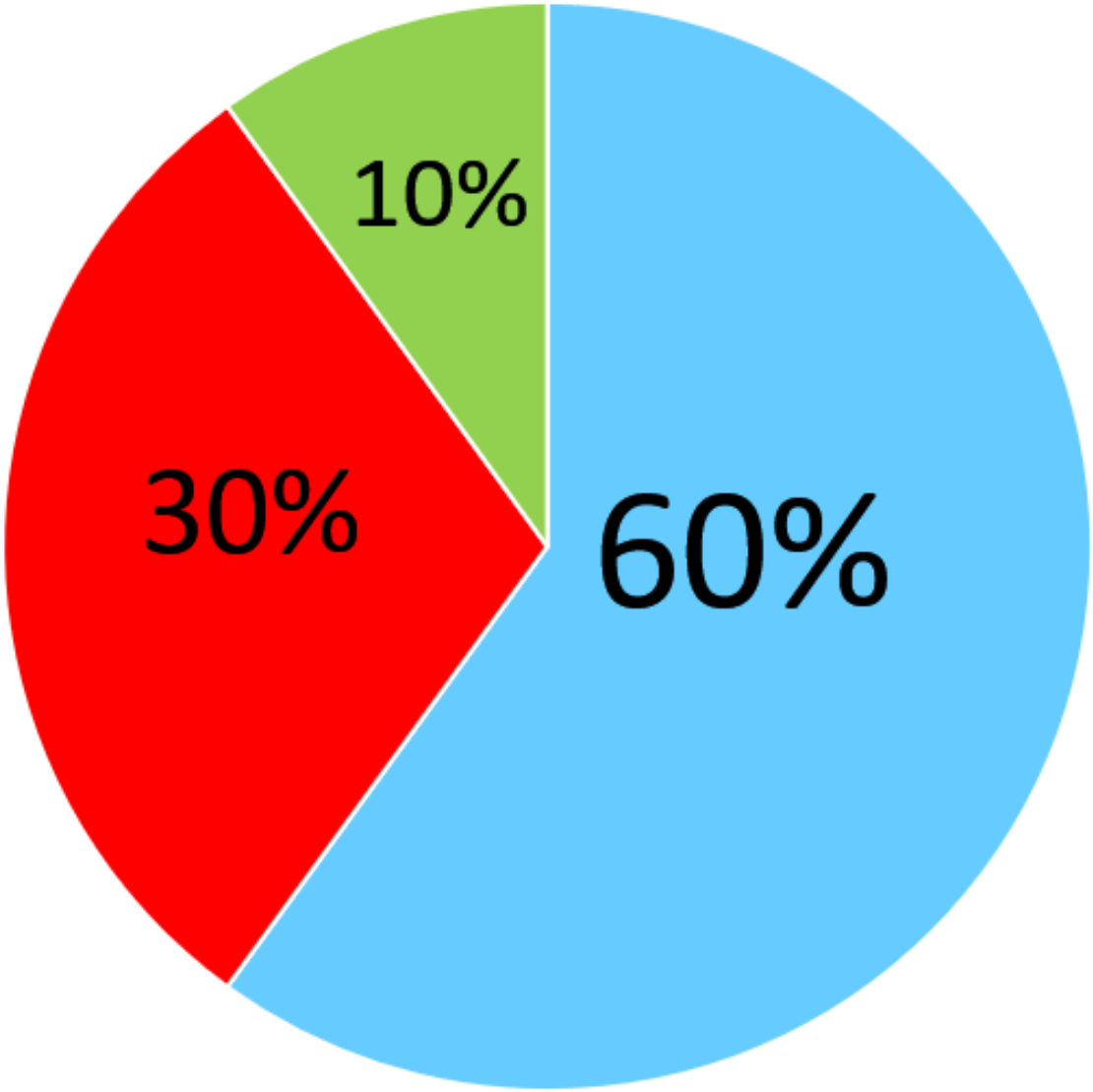
"If the timing of our translation to heaven depends on our own spiritual maturity or readiness, how ready do we have to be? What degree of maturity or readiness is required to make it in the first group? The Bible never says."

Lordship Salvation

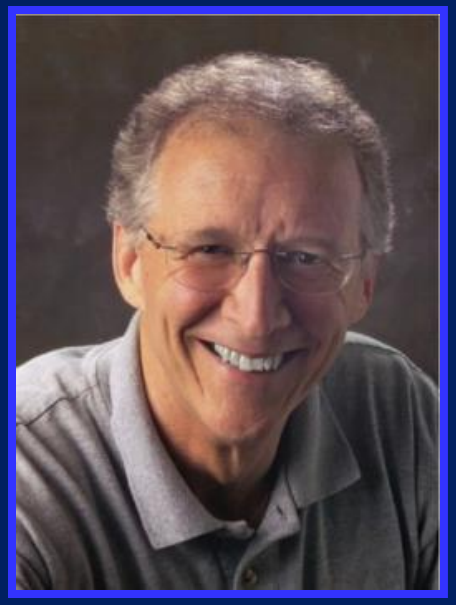
7 Problems



- ✓ Changes the gospel
- ✓ Places an impossible burden upon the unsaved
- ✓ Confuses justification with sanctification
- ✓ Confuses the result of with requirement for salvation
- ✓ Fails to make basic dispensational distinctions
- ✓ Ignores the reality of a carnal Christian
- ✓ **Destroys the assurance of salvation**


10%
30%
60%

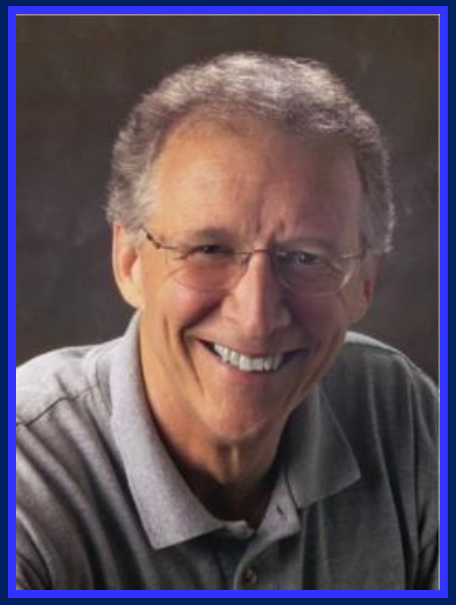
John Piper



"No Christian can be sure that he is a true believer. Hence, there is an ongoing need to be dedicated to the Lord and to deny ourselves so that we might make it."

John Piper and Pastoral Staff, TULIP: What We Believe about the Five Points of Calvinism: Position Paper of the Pastoral Staff (Desiring God Ministries, 1997), 25, cited in Dave Hunt, What Love is This?, 379.

John Piper



"What causes me to be anxious is the possibility that I may not be a Christian—that I might be *fake* / that everything I've ever done might be a farce—those are *horrible*, *horrible* thoughts; right?"

John Piper's Interview on Family Life Radio April 14, 2020
https://www.familylife.com/podcast/familylife-today/strategies-for-standing-firm-through-coronavirus/



R.C. Sproul, Jr.

"A while back I had one of those moments… Suddenly the question hit me: 'R.C. what if you are not one of the redeemed? What if your destiny is not heaven after all, but hell?' Let me tell you that I was flooded in my body with the chill that went from my head to the bottom of my spine. I was terrified. I begin to take stock of my life, and I looked at my performance. My sins came pouring into my mind, and the more I looked at myself the worst I felt. I thought, 'maybe it's really true. Maybe I'm not saved after all.'…Then I remembered John 6:68. Jesus had been giving out hard teaching, and many of His former followers had left Him. When He asked Peter if he was also going to leave, Peter said, 'where else can we go? Only you have the words of eternal life.' In other words, Peter was also uncomfortable, but he realized that being uncomfortable with Jesus was better than any other option."

"Assurance of Salvation" (Tabletalk, Ligonier Ministries, 1989), p. 20

R.T. Kendall

R. T. Kendall, *Calvin and English Calvinism to 1649* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1979), 2.

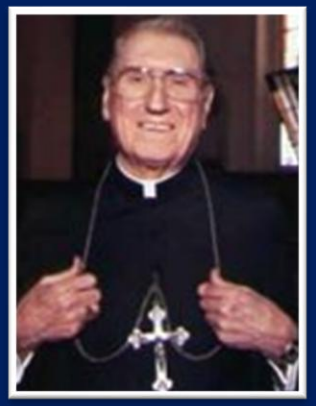
Interestingly, it has been recorded that "nearly all of the Puritan 'divines' [men who were Calvinistic and taught perseverance] went through great dread and despair on their deathbeds as they realized their lives did not give perfect evidence that they were elect."



Cardinal John O'Connor of NY

quoted in Samuel Howe Verhovek, *Cardinal Defends a Jailed Bishop Who Warned Cuomo on Abortion,* New York Times, February 1, 1990.

"Church teaching is that I don't know, at any given moment, what my eternal future will be… I can hope, pray, do my very best – but I still don't know. Pope John II doesn't absolutely know that he will go to heaven, nor does mother Theresa of Calcutta, unless either has had a special divine revelation."



John 5:24

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and **believes Him** who sent Me, **has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but **has passed out** of death into life."



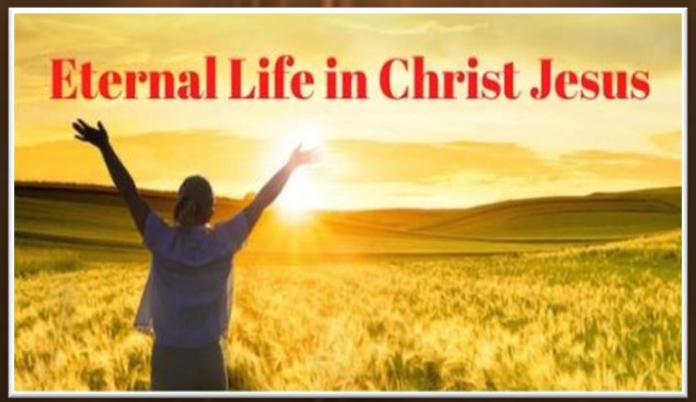
Acts 16:30-31

“30 and after he brought them out, he said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’31 They said, ‘**Believe** in the Lord Jesus, and **you will be saved**, you and your household.’”



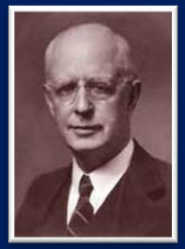
1 John 5:13

"These things I have **written** to **you** who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may **know** that you **have** eternal life."



DTS Doctrinal Statement
Article XI—Assurance

"We believe it is the privilege, not only of some, but of **all** by the Spirit through faith who are born again in Christ as revealed in the Scriptures, to be **assured** of their salvation from the **very day** they take Him to be their Savior and that this assurance is **not** founded upon any fancied discovery of their own **worthiness** or fitness, but wholly upon the testimony of God in His **written Word**, exciting within His children filial love..."



Lewis Sperry Chafer

"There is a normal Christian experience. There are new and blessed emotions and desires. Old things do pass away; and behold all things do become new; but ***all such experiences are but secondary evidences***, as to the fact of salvation, in that they grow out of that positive repose of faith which is the primary evidence."

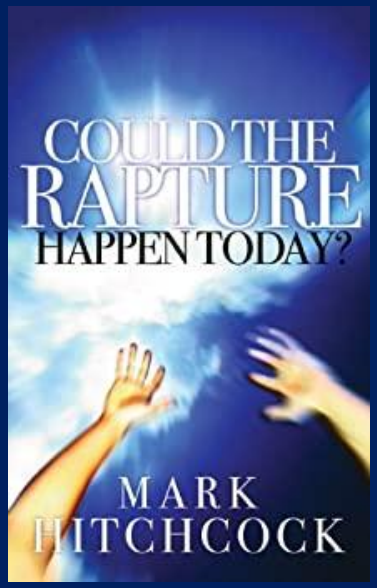
Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Salvation: A Clear Doctrinal Analysis* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1977), 60. Italics added

Problems with Partial Rapturism?

6. Partial rapturism makes the Bema Seat Judgment unnecessary (1 Cor. 3:10-15)
7. Partial rapturists never objectively quantify the exact degree of faithfulness or spiritual maturity that is necessary to participate in the rapture
8. **Partial rapturists appear individually biased**
9. Partial rapturists dispensationally misapply Bible passages (Matt. 25:1-13)
10. Partial rapturists misapply passages promising a reward to faithful believers (Rev. 3:11)

Mark Hitchcock

Could the Rapture Happen Today? (Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2005), 68.



"Every person I have ever met who believes in the partial Rapture view believes that he or she will be included in the first group that goes before the Tribulation. They always believe in the pre-Tribulationist view for themselves. It's those other unfortunate believers who will have to go through varying degrees of tribulation before they can be caught up to heaven. But why believe that you are worthy for this special reward while other believers are not? It is inconsistent."

Problems with Partial Rapturism?

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If Jesus will not allow anyone who harmed and didn't help His bretheren (the Jews) throughout the tribulation, to enter into His Millennial Kingdom right after, why would He allow such to be raptured as His bride before the Tribulation?

11:18 AM · Aug 11, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

42 Retweets and comments **195** Likes

Preview of Matthew 24–25

I. The problem

II. The larger context

III. The immediate context (23:37-39)

IV. The Disciples' questions (24:1-3)

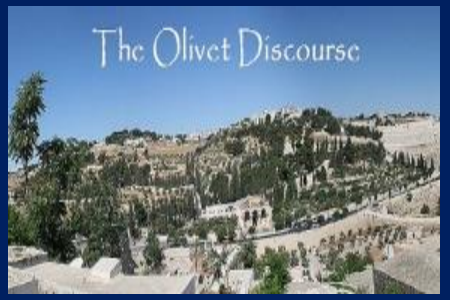
V. The Tribulation's first half (24:4-14)

VI. The Tribulation's mid-point (24:15-20)

VII. The Tribulation's second half (24:21-22)

VIII. The Second Advent (24:23-31)

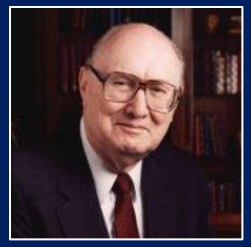
IX. Eight parabolic exhortations (24:32–25:46)



Matthew 24:15-16, 20

“15 Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand) 16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains…20 But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on **a Sabbath**.”

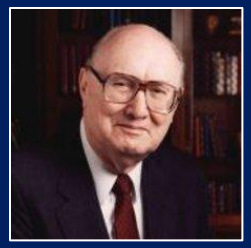




John F. Walvoord

"Christ's Olivet Discourse on the End of the Age Part V: The Parable of the Ten Virgins," Bibliotheca Sacra 129, no. 514 (April 1972): 101.

"Following the strict rules of exegesis, the context indicates that the subject is the second coming of Christ to the earth not the rapture of the church. Although many expositors have attempted to make this whole discourse apply to the church, or at least from Matthew 24:45 make an application of the general truth of Christ's coming to the rapture of the church, as seen in previous study the evidence is quite insufficient."



John F. Walvoord

"Christ's Olivet Discourse on the End of the Age Part V: The Parable of the Ten Virgins," Bibliotheca Sacra 129, no. 514 (April 1972): 101.

"There is no clear distinction between the illustrations before Matthew 24:45 and those which follow. Neither the church nor the rapture are in view. Inasmuch as the rapture (John 14:1–3) had not yet been revealed, it is questionable whether Christ would have tried to teach His disciples using an illustration of a truth that was not even known to them at this time. Interpretation, therefore, must relate this passage to the context, namely, the doctrine of the second coming of Christ to establish His earthly kingdom."

A Comparison of the Olivet and Upper Room Discourses

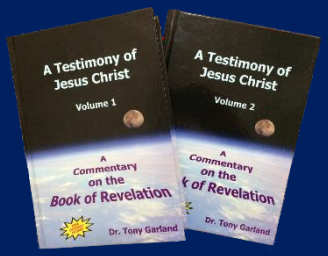
Discourse	Olivet	Upper Room
Scripture	Matt 24–25	John 13–17
Location	Mount of Olives	Upper Room
Passion week	Third day	Sixth day
General focus	Farewell: Israel	Hello: Church
Specific focus	Israel's future	Divine provisions
Prompting	Temple's destruction	Christ's imminent departure
Explanations	Written OT	Unwritten NT
Apostles	Israel (Matt. 19:28)	Church (Eph. 2:20)



Ron Rhodes

The Big Book of Bible Answers: A Guide to Understanding the Most Challenging Questions (Eugene, OR: Harvest, 2013), 278.

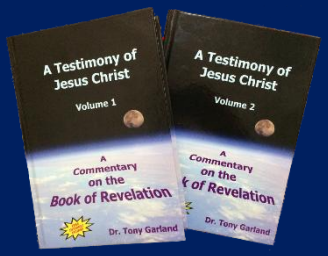
"This view is based on the parable of the 10 virgins—depicting five virgins being prepared and five unprepared (Matthew 25:1–13). This is interpreted to mean that only faithful, and watchful Christians will be raptured...Pre-tribulationalists respond that Matthew 25:1–13 has nothing to do with the rapture. Those virgins who are 'unprepared' apparently represent people living during the tribulation period who are unprepared for Christ's second coming (seven years after the rapture)."



Tony Garland

Anthony Garland, "Q181 : George Peters and the Partial Rapture View," online: www.spiritandtruth.org, accessed 13 August 2015.

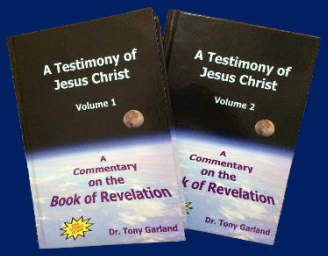
"I believe that Peters is mistaken in confounding various thief passages with the coming of the Lord for the church (e.g., Matt. 24:37-44, Luke 17:26-37). Where these passage speak of 'one taken...another left,' Peters falls into the common mistake of misinterpreting Second Coming judgment passages as Rapture passages...If we consider various passages where people fail to watch or perform, we find that some very serious consequences result: Left as dead for birds of prey (Mat. 24:28, 37-43; Luke 17:37). Being cut in two with the hypocrites, weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 24:51). Being shut out from the wedding feast with the . . ."



Tony Garland

Anthony Garland, "Q181 : George Peters and the Partial Rapture View," online: www.spiritandtruth.org, accessed 13 August 2015.

"…Master proclaiming, I do not know you (Matt. 25:12 cf. Matt. 7:23). Being cast into outer darkness, weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 25:30). Although some teach that 'outer darkness' is a place where under-performing believers may suffer during the Millennial Kingdom, this seems most unlikely. Jesus clearly states that those Jews who did not believe in Him—the faithless 'sons of the Kingdom'—were bound for outer darkness (Matt. 8:12)...While not focusing specifically on Rapture-related warning passages here, I hope you can see that the way in which a person interprets various readiness warning passages—whether they can have in . . ."



Tony Garland

Anthony Garland, "Q181 : George Peters and the Partial Rapture View," online: www.spiritandtruth.org, accessed 13 August 2015.

"…view believers who are securely saved—will have a lot to do with whether a teacher believes that the body of Christ will be sliced into two companies, either at the Rapture or at the entry to the Millennial Kingdom to follow. Peters, while having much to offer concerning the coming Kingdom and eschatology in general, appears to be comfortable with the idea that it is our performance rather than identity that determines our destiny in relation to the Rapture. I take the opposite view: that those who are in Christ are joined to Christ in a way which cannot (and will not) be broken."

Matthew 24:36-41

36 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. 37 For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and **took (*airō*)** them all away; so will the . . .



Matthew 24:36-41

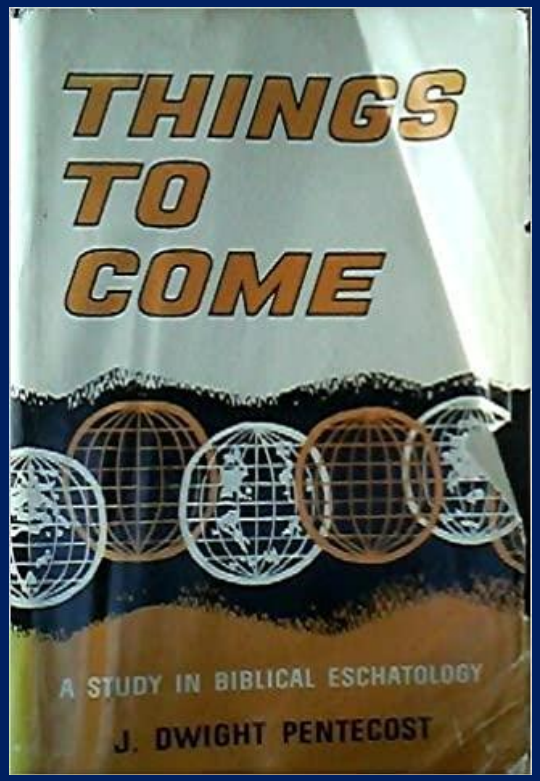
. . .coming of the Son of Man be. [40] Then there will be two men in the field; one will be **taken** (***paralambanō***) and one will be left. [41] "Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be **taken** (***paralambanō***) and one will be left."





J. Dwight Pentecost

Things to Come, Page 162



"Again, this passage is in that discourse in which the Lord outlined His program for Israel, who was already in the tribulation period. The one taken is taken to judgment and the one left is left for the millennial blessing. Such is not the prospect for the church."

Luke 21:28, 34-36

“[28] But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near…[34] **But be on your guard, so that your hearts will not be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that this day will not come on you suddenly, like a trap**; [35] for it will come upon all those who live on the face of all the earth. [36] But stay alert at all times, praying that you will have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”



Luke 21:21, 28, 34-36

“21 Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are in the midst of the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city…28 But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near…34 But be on your guard, so that your hearts will not be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that this day will not come on you suddenly, like a trap; …



Luke 21:21, 28, 34-36

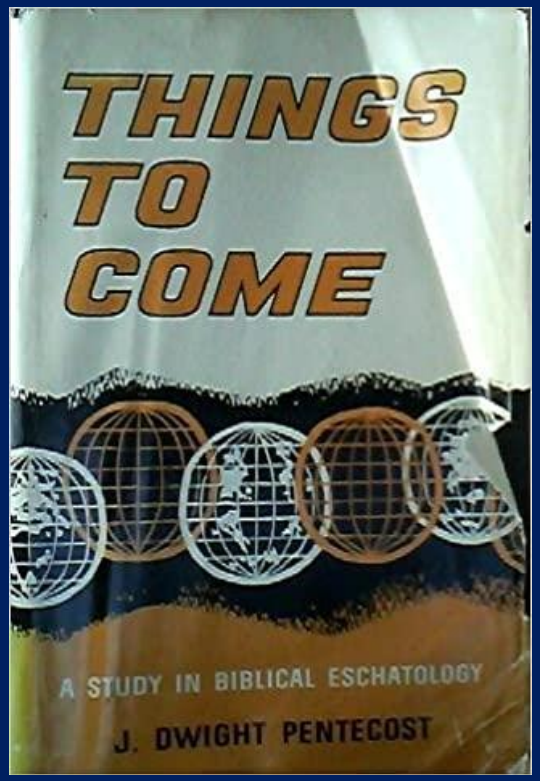
. . .[35] for it will come upon all those who live on the face of all the earth. [36] But stay alert at all times, praying that you will have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”





J. Dwight Pentecost

Things to Come, Page 161-62



"It will be observed that the primary reference in this chapter is to the nation of Israel, who was already in the tribulation period, and therefore this is not applicable to the church. The things to be escaped are judgments associated with 'that day' (vs. 34), that is, the Day of the Lord. Watchfulness is enjoined upon the church (1 Thessalonians 5:6; Titus 2:13) apart from being found worthy to participate in the translation."

Problems with Partial Rapturism?

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Scripture's Five Crowns
(Rev 4:10: 3:11; 2 John 8)

SCRIPTURE	CROWN	PURPOSE
1 Cor. 9:24-27	**Incorruptible**	Gaining mastery over the flesh
1 Thess. 2:19-20	**Rejoicing**	Soul winning
Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10	**Life**	Enduring trials
1 Pet. 5:2-4	**Glory**	Shepherding God's people
2 Tim. 4:8	**Righteousness**	Longing for His appearing

1 Corinthians 3:15

"If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."



1 Corinthians 9:24-27

“[24] Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives **the prize**? Run in such a way that you may win. [25] Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. [26] Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; [27] but **I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified**.”



2 John 8

"Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward."



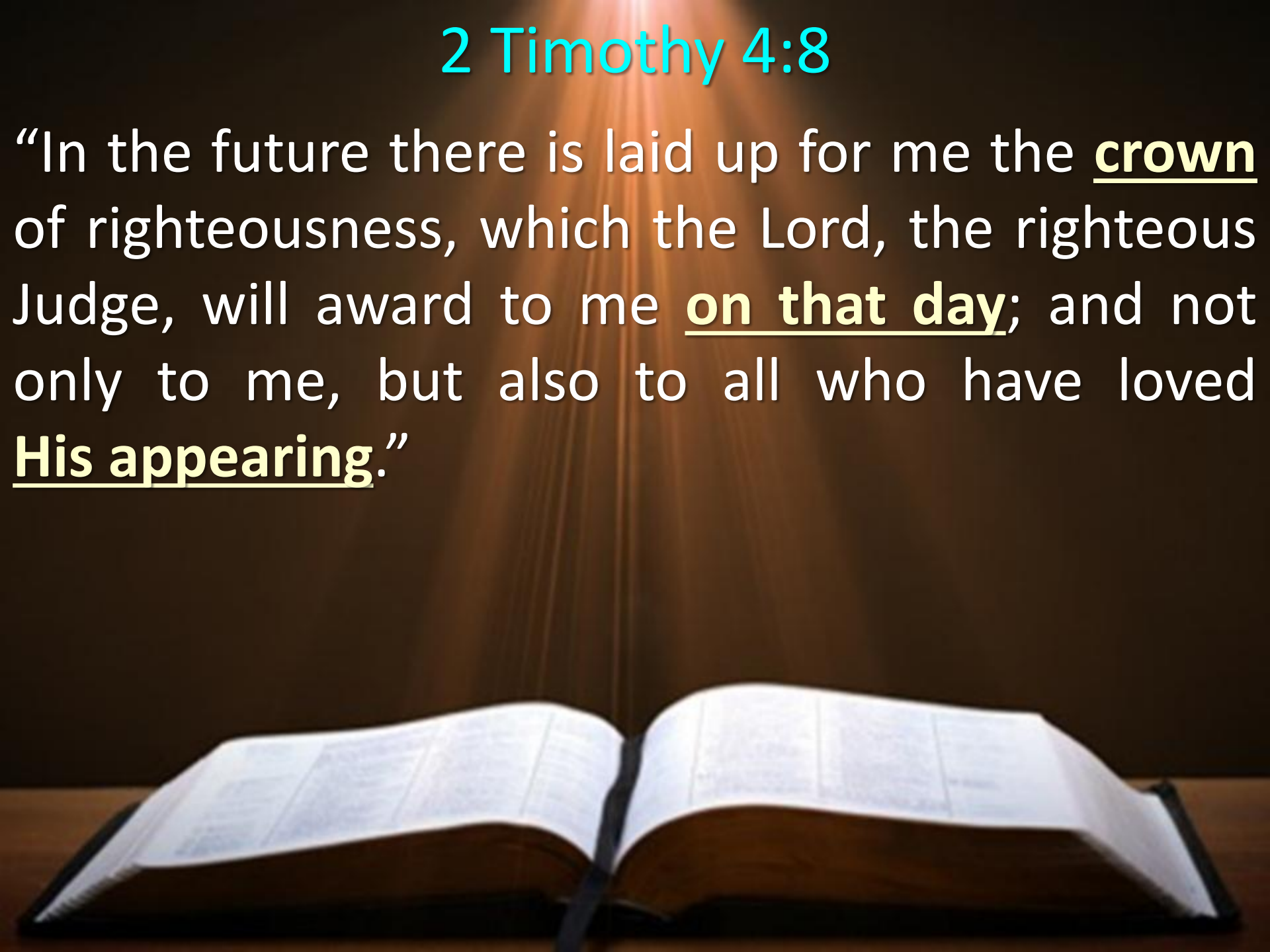
Revelation 3:11

"I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown."



2 Timothy 4:8

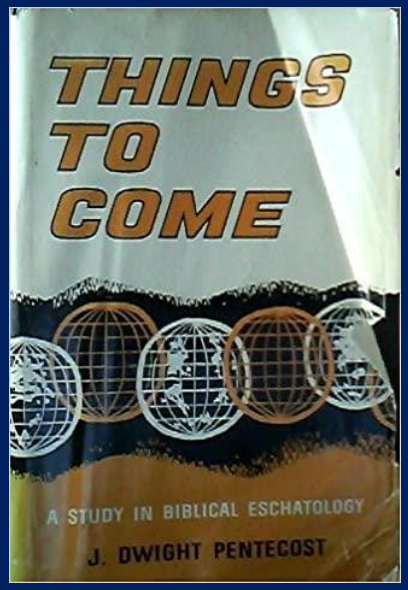
"In the future there is laid up for me the **crown** of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me **on that day**; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved **His appearing**."





J. Dwight Pentecost

Things to Come, Page 163



"This [2 Tim. 4:8] is used by the adherents of this position to show that the rapture must be a partial one. However, it is to be noticed that the subject of the translation is not in view in this passage, but rather the question of reward. The Second Advent was intended by God to be a purifying hope (1 John 3:3). Because of such purifying a new life is produced because of the expectancy of the Lord's return. Therefore, those that truly 'love his appearing' will experience a new kind of life which will bring a reward."

Problems with Partial Rapturism?

1. Every divine blessing is given on the basis of His grace and not human effort (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 12:6)
2. Symbolic parallels mandate that carnal as well as sanctified Christians will be taken up in the rapture (Gen. 19:22)
3. The promise of the rapture is mentioned in Paul's letter to the carnal Corinthian church (1 Cor. 15:51)
4. A partial rapture would sever Christ's body (1 Cor 12:12-14)
5. The partial rapture view subjects believers to God's wrath (Thess 1:10)

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Revelation 3:10

‘**Because you have kept the word of My perseverance**, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.



Revelation 3:9-10

9 ‘Behold, I will cause *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and *make them* know that I have loved **you.** 10 **‘Because you have kept the word of My perseverance**, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that *hour* which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.



Problems with Beginning the Sentence in Rev. 3:10 with "Because"

1. Not part of the original manuscripts: chapter & verse divisions & punctuation marks (periods, commas, or exclamation points).
2. These things were all added by later copyists.
3. Most English translations separate the two verses with a period.
4. Thus, it becomes cause for participating the Rapture and not a cause for their enemies to worship before their feet.
5. However, the period should be placed in the middle of verse 10.
6. Thus, it becomes not a cause for participating the Rapture and a cause for their enemies to worship before their feet.

John Niemela, *The Interpretation of Revelation 3:10: You Have Kept My Word*, CTS Journal; As summarized by Dennis Rokser, *A Golden Nugget in Revelation 3:10*, Grace for the Race, no. 29.

Problems with Beginning the Sentence in Rev. 3:10 with "Because" (cont'd)

7. Rev. 3:10b becomes an additional unconditional promise of Rapture participation beyond the promises of Rev. 2:9b.
8. It is rare to begin a sentence with "because" (*hoti*) in a causative sense.
9. Instead, *hoti* ("because"), when casual in function, usually follows a statement or promise in providing a reason for what preceded it in the sentence.
10. Thus, Greek sentences rarely begin a sentence with the phrase "Because you have" when explaining the cause or reason for something, as Greek and English texts of Revelation 3:10 unfortunately do today. Instead, the "because" phraseology consistently follows later in the sentence.

John Niemela, *The Interpretation of Revelation 3:10: You Have Kept My Word*, CTS Journal; As summarized by Dennis Rokser, *A Golden Nugget in Revelation 3:10*, Grace for the Race, no. 29.

Revelation 3:9-10

MacDonald's Idiomatic Translation (MIT)

"[9] I would put at your disposal those from the synagogue of Satan who call themselves Jews but are not; they are lying. See: I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will know that I loved you [10] because you kept my enduring word. I also will keep you from the time of trial that is about to come..."



Revelation 3:10

‘Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, **I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth**.



CONCLUSION

The Rapture

Course Overview

I. What is the Rapture?

II. When is the Rapture?

III. Strengthening the Pre-Tribulational case

IV. The opposing views

V. <u>One second after the Rapture</u>

