

10/26/25 a.m. (Part 10)

Introduction:

Explain church “clarity assessment” rule of thumb: “*Every 6-7 years, a church must reevaluate and realign with its “vision,” “mission,” and “purpose.”*”

I began this process a few of weeks ago (9-7-25 am & pm) by beginning a series of sermons on the “**church**” (*both Sunday mornings & evenings*), and who/what we are and what we are to be doing.

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- ◆ We have studied the “*Founding of the Church*,” and have established the “*Founder of the Church* (Jesus Christ), and we have studied the “*Format of the Church*,” (“*faith...hope...and love*.”) “*Formation of the Church*...” as well as the “*Fellowship of the Church*” ...
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Review: Our last time together (10-26-25 am) we began this sermon but only covered the first point:

“The Future of the Church”

Now for today, 11/2/25 a.m. (Part 11) – (Part 2 of Part 10)

“The Future of the Church”

Matthew 16:18 / various scriptures

Introduction:

- Our study of the church would not be complete without considering our subject today!

- Some say that *the church is going down, or going out of business, or even dying out in these last days!*
- I've got news for them. The church is not going down; it is going up when Jesus comes!
- He will find some genuine churches still around when He comes again!
- However, the real *future* of the true church is not in this world.
- Someone has said, “*Serving the Lord does not pay much, but his retirement plan is out of this world!*”

For this study, we will briefly look at **four** thoughts that relate to the *future of the church*:

I. **The “Rapture” (I Thess. 4:13-17)**

“**The word “rapture” is not in the Bible,**” someone will say!

- You are exactly right about that, but the teaching is.
- It is expressed in the two words, “*caught up*” in the following passage!

1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷Then 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.

So, *The Rapture* is in our *future* but also...

II. **The “Review & Rewards” Ceremony (II Cor. 5:9-10)**

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

- ◆ 5:9 The believer should **make it his aim to be well pleasing to the Lord**.

 - ◆ While his salvation is not dependent on works, his **reward** in the coming day will be directly proportionate to his faithfulness to the Lord.
 - ◆ A believer should always remember that *faith* is linked with *salvation*, and *works* are linked with *reward*.

 - ◆ He is saved by grace through faith, not by works; but once he is saved, he should be ambitious to perform good works, and for so doing he will **receive rewards**.

 - ◆ Notice that Paul wanted to **be well pleasing to Him, whether present or absent**. This means that his service on earth was designed to bring pleasure to the heart of his Lord, whether Paul was still here on earth or whether he was standing before the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- ◆ 5:10 One motive for being well pleasing to Christ is that **we must all appear before His judgment seat**.

 - ◆ Actually, it is not just a matter of *appearing* there, but of being *made manifest*.

 - ◆ The **NEB** correctly says, "*We must all have our lives laid open before the tribunal of Christ.*"

 - ◆ It is one thing to appear in a doctor's office and quite another thing to be X-rayed by him there.

 - ◆ **The judgment seat of Christ** will reveal our lives of service for Christ exactly as they have been.
 - ◆ Both the extent of our service and its quality, along with the underlying motivation behind it, will be subject to thorough evaluation.

 - ◆ Although sins after conversion will influence our service, a believer's sins, as such, will not be brought into review for judgment at this solemn time.
 - ◆ That judgment took place over 2000 years ago, when the Lord Jesus bore our sins in His body on the tree.
 - ◆ He fully paid the debt that our sins deserved, and God will never bring those sins into judgment again ([John 5:24](#)).

◆ **The judgment seat of Christ** has to do with our service for the Lord.

◆ It will not be a matter of whether we are saved or not; that is already an assured fact. But it is a matter of *reward* and *loss* at that time.

--Believer's Bible Commentary: A Thorough, Yet Easy-to-Read Bible Commentary That Turns Complicated Theology Into Practical Understanding.

So, *The Rapture* is in our *future*, *The Review/Rewards*, but also...

III. **The “Reign” of Christ (Rev. 20:1-10)**

Revelation 20:1-10 (NKJV)

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a **thousand** years;

³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the **thousand** years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a **thousand** years.

⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the **thousand** years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.

⁶ Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a **thousand** years.

⁷ Now when the **thousand** years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea.

⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

◆ **Mille** = 1,000

Unum = Years

◆ There is much debate and argumentation over eschatological teachings and in particular, the Millennial Reign:

◆ Pre, Post, or Amillennial

Dwight D. Pentecost said, “**There is more information in the Bible about the ‘millennium’ than any other prophetic event!**”

I think that **Warren Wiersbe** says it best ... **Revelation 20 ...**

This is the “thousand years” chapter (mentioned six times here), which describes the Millennium.

Some sincere Bible students deny that there will be a literal thousand-year reign of Christ on earth.

They prefer to "spiritualize" the OT kingdom prophecies and apply them to the church today.

But I believe that there will be a literal **thousand-year** kingdom on earth for several reasons:

(1) To fulfill the OT promises to Israel, [Luke 1:30-33](#);

Luke 1:30-33 (NKJV)

³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.

³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

(2) To give a public display of Christ's glory to the nations of earth.

(3) To answer the saints' prayer of "Thy kingdom come".

(4) To fulfill the promises to the church that saints will reign with Christ;

(5) To bring about the complete redemption of nature as promised in [Rom. 8:19-22](#);

Romans 8:19-22 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope;

²¹ because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

(6) To give mankind one final trial under the sovereign rule of Christ.

Notice the **Outline** of Rev. 20, the great "Millenium" chapter:

1. **Before the Millennium (20:1-5)**

The Battle of Armageddon is now over, and the Beast and False Prophet have been cast into hell. Christ now lays hold of that old serpent, Satan, and casts him into the bottomless pit.

2. **During the Millennium (20:6)**

The *millennial* kingdom will be the divine rule of heaven upon earth.

Christ will rule with a rod of iron, permitting no injustice or sin.

Jerusalem will be the center of the kingdom ([Isa. 2:1-4](#)), and the disciples will reign with Christ ([Matt. 19:28](#)).

Israel will be in its land, sharing the glory of Christ, its rightful King.

There will be peace on earth among men and animals ([Isa. 11:7-9](#) and [54:13-14](#)).

The saints will reign with Christ as kings and priests and will serve Him in various capacities during the *Millennium*.

Our faithfulness to Him today will determine the extent of our glorious responsibilities during the kingdom age (Matt. 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-27).

3. **After the Millennium** (20:7-15)

A. *The final battle* (vv. 7-10).

Satan is loosed at the end of the *thousand* years, and he gathers a huge army to fight Christ.

This rebellion proves that a rule of perfect law cannot change the human heart; sinners would rather follow Satan.

B. *The final judgment* (vv. 11-15).

John now sees a throne of judgment. It is **great**, because all sinners of history will stand before it.

It is **white** because it represents the unchanging holiness of God; He is not a respecter of persons.

Heaven and earth flee away; there is no place for the lost sinner to hide!

– Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament.

The **fourth** and final great event that we will look at is:

IV. **The Eternal “Residence” of the Church** (**John 14:1-3**).

“I do not know all that the future holds for the Lord in his people but thank God I do know that where He is, there will His church be also.

*When He raptures, when He rewards, when He reigns, where He resides, and whatever else He may do, **we will be there.***

The future of the church is as bright as the future of Christ. Hallelujah!!!” –Dr. Stinnett D. Ballew

Closing: As **I Thess. 4:17** tells us, “*And so shall we ever be with the Lord.*”

We will dwell with Him forever!

Are YOU saved and ready to meet Him? IF not, come right now!

--Dr. B. Beach / Dr. S.D. Ballew (8/6/06); 10/26/25 & 11/2/25