

## The Rapture

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)

— - *The study of last things or of the future generally.*

#### THREE WORDS:

- \_\_\_\_\_ – ([1 Thessalonians 4:13 & 15](#))
- \_\_\_\_\_ – ([1 Thessalonians 4:14](#))
- \_\_\_\_\_ – ([1 Thessalonians 4:17](#))

— - *The belief that one day Jesus will return and gather his church (His followers) to himself. Both the living and the dead.*

— - *The Tribulation is a seven year period ([Daniel 9:24-27](#)) when the antichrist will come into power and have freedom to reign and rule on earth.*

#### FOUR VIEWS:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ RAPTURE

2. \_\_\_\_\_ RAPTURE

3. \_\_\_\_\_ RAPTURE

4. \_\_\_\_\_ RAPTURE

## **FOUR REASONS why the Rapture and the Second Coming of Jesus are the same event:**

**1. \_\_\_\_\_ BUT NOT \_\_\_\_\_**

- [Matthew 24](#); [2 Thessalonians 2](#); [1 Corinthians 15:50-52](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:13-17](#)

**2. \_\_\_\_\_ NOT \_\_\_\_\_**

**3. \_\_\_\_\_ NOT \_\_\_\_\_**

**4. \_\_\_\_\_ NOT \_\_\_\_\_**

### **So What?**

***“So encourage each other with these words.”* -1 Thessalonians 4:18**

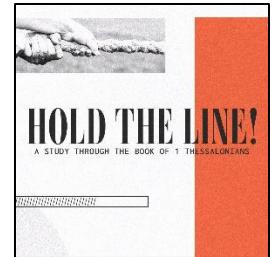
# Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

**Series:** Hold The Line

**Message:** The Rapture

**Speaker:** Shawn Vandop

**Date:** November 14, 2021



## Connect (25min)

**Option:** Break into groups of 3-4 to enhance your sharing time for Connect.

### 1. THE HIGH LOW

\*Share a HIGH & a LOW from your week. *What encouraged you this week? What discouraged you?*

### 2. BUCKET LIST

\*Take 1min to think of (write down) 3 things that you'd like to experience before "the end." Share together.  
[e.g. a place to visit, an activity, a person to connect with...]

### 3. OPEN UP -- Read [Ecclesiastes 12:1-7, 13-14](#). Respond in prayer as a group.

## Message Discussion (45min)

### 1. THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT

- a. Do you ever think about *the end of your life* or *the end of the world*? Why or why not? Share your thoughts.
- b. Last time we checked there is a 100% death rate; why is the reality of death so difficult or awkward for most people to talk about? How is it generally addressed in your circle of family and friends?
- c. What fears (if any) do you have about death?

**NOTE:** *The new community of believers in Thessalonica were grieving over the loss of loved ones in light of the hope of the 2nd coming of Jesus. Paul writes as a pastor to inform them and encourage them that because Jesus died and rose again, we have the sure hope that all those who are in Christ whether dead or alive, will always be with the Lord. And with this truth we should encourage one another.*

### 2. WORD UP Read [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)

- a. What initially stands out or connects with you in this passage of scripture?
- b. Do you ever think about the return of Jesus? Why/why not?
- c. What do you know about the rapture? Did you grow up learning about it?

### 3. THE END GAME

Had you ever heard of the four views that Shawn explained? Do you remember what they were?

Read & discuss the following descriptions. Which view do you identify with and why?

- a. **PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE** - This view maintains the rapture occurs when Jesus comes secretly to gather the church prior to a seven-year Great Tribulation that precedes the return of Christ to earth.
- b. **MID-TRIBULATION RAPTURE** - This is similar to the pre-tribulation view except that it locates the rapture after the first three-and-a-half years at the point when the Anti-Christ assumes power.
- c. **PRE-WRATH RAPTURE** - This position argues that the rapture will occur toward the end of the tribulation before the outpouring of God's wrath with the bowl judgments (ref. [Revelation 16](#)) prior to the return of Christ.
- d. **POST-TRIBULATION RAPTURE** - This view sees the rapture as occurring simultaneous to the return of Christ at the end of the Tribulation.

#### 4. RETURN OF THE KING

a. When it comes to the return of Christ we have to wrestle with the question:

*“Does the Bible teach us to **PREPARE to ESCAPE** or **PREPARE to ENDURE?**”*

(escape the tribulation or endure the tribulation)

> What do you think?

b. If we believe in the return of Christ, what things should we be doing as we wait for His return?

How should we live? Why are we still here from God's perspective and plan?

 **Read [Matthew 24:14; Romans 10:14-15; Ephesians 5:15-17](#)**

c. What effect should a study and knowledge of the end times have on your eagerness to share the Gospel and make disciples? Discuss.

#### 5. HOPE & HOME

The ultimate purpose of **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** is so that we will be encouraged and will keep our focus upon the lasting hope that we have in Christ Jesus. This hope is what will sustain us in-the-midst of living in a world of confusion, hopelessness and despair. How should our lives as believers provide evidence that our hope is not tied to this world, but is found in Christ?  **Read [Matthew 6:19-20; Hebrews 10:32-34, 11:9-10](#)**.

### Application & Prayer (15min)

#### 1. CONSIDER THIS:

- **1 Thessalonians 4:18** says - *“So encourage each other with these words.”*

What are some ways you can practically encourage other believers with the message of this passage?

- How can you overcome any distractions in your life that take your focus off Jesus' return?

How can our group encourage one another with the truth of Jesus' imminent return?

- Who is one of the people in your life that is *not ready for Christ's return?*

Jesus loves them and died for them. Let's pray for their salvation and relationship with Jesus.

#### 2. PRAY: *Break into groups of 3-4 people for this portion of your Life Group.*