

## 16 Declarations of faith of the Assemblies of God

### 13 The Blessed Hope

All Christians who have died will one day rise again from their graves and will meet the Lord in the air. Christians who are alive will be transformed in the twinkling of the eye (raptured) and caught up with them. Believers of all times will be with the Lord forever. This scriptural truth of the Lord's return for His church is the Blessed Hope.

- **1 Thessalonians 4:16** 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. **17** 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.
- This is the rapture.
- The ones who have died in the Lord will resurrect. Also the saints of the Old Testament...
- **Hebrews 11:39** And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, **40** God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us
- **Romans 8:23** Not only *that*, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.
- All believers should be waiting for the blessed hope
- **Titus 2:13** looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, **14** who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.
- **1 Corinthians 15:51** Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

- **1 Thessalonians 4:16** And the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** 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. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.
- This is the blessed hope for all believers
- The bible encourages us to comfort one another with these words
- For the sinner, however, RAPTURE is anything but a blessed hope. to be left behind will involve indescribable suffering as God judges a disobedient and rebellious world.
- God desires that all are saved **2 Peter 3:8** Not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
- God places a burden for the lost on the Hearts of believers who have come to knowledge of his Love and Salvation. It is for this reason that the primary mission of the church is evangelizing the world. Seeking to save as many as possible from the judgment to come but furthermore that as many as we came can be with the Lord forever.

### **What is the significance of this doctrine?**

This doctrine is very important because it provides a primary motivation for witnessing and living a holy life. The return of Jesus Christ for his redeemed church is a BLESSED HOPE indeed.

The translations (snatching away) of living Christians is commonly known as the rapture (to Catch up). The Rapture of the church will be the event that Will bring suffering, pain, hardship, and difficulty to the earth, the great tribulation  
We as Christians will then be with the Lord forever