

**NEXT 04: "The Rapture"
John 14:1-4**

June 11, 2023

Main Idea: The Rapture of the church is the next big event.

The Promise

When the disciples were with Jesus on the night of His betrayal (John 14), they were concerned and saddened when He told them He was going away. He gave them a promise that I'm sure you have heard before. He would return for His followers.

Pre, Mid, and Post Tribulation

There are 3 schools of thought concerning the timing of the Rapture. Not all scholars agree, but in my eyes, there is only one way to understand when the Rapture happens in reference to the Great Tribulation.

- **Pre-tribulation** – The Rapture occurs before the Tribulation.
- **Mid-tribulation** – The Rapture occurs in the middle of the Tribulation.
- **Post-tribulation** – The Rapture occurs after the Tribulation.

The Mystery – 1Corinthians 15

In 1Corinthians 15 Paul reveals the mystery of the Rapture. Like today, most people in Paul's day believed the only way a person could enter the presence of God was in death. In this passage Paul explains that there are some who will enter God's presence in a living state after being transformed at the Rapture.

The Explanation – 1Thessalonians 4:13-18

In 1Thessalonians 4 Paul explains the process. This is the premier passage in the NT concerning the Rapture. Paul wanted the church to understand what is going to happen to their loved ones who had already died. One day Jesus will return for His church. The dead "in Christ" will rise first and then we who are still alive will be "caught up" to meet Him.

Pre-Trib Rapture View – 1Thessalonians 5

Paul continues by reassuring the church that followers of Jesus will not experience the "darkness" of the Tribulation. This and many other passages like it reveal that followers of Christ will not go through the Tribulation. We are not under God's judgment. Jesus Christ has made me righteous in God's eye's.

Family Night Big Idea – Read John 14:1-4

Jesus will keep His promise to return. Help you children find comfort in knowing that Jesus is going to return for His followers. This is the great day when we will get to see loved ones that have already gone to heaven.

- **Preschool/ Elementary** – Ask, "What did Jesus promise to do?" Ask, "What is the first thing you are going to do when you see heaven?" Ask, "Who do you most want to meet when you get to heaven?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "Is there a difference between believing in God and believing in Jesus?" Ask, "How should knowing Jesus could return at any moment affect us?" Ask, "What should we do now?"

Prayer

"Father, we want to be ready when Jesus returns to take us to heaven. Help us be prepared. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Velocity meets this Wednesday, June 21.

Gravity: Middle Schoolers come to the Community Room.

Today's Songs

Great Things.....Phil Wickham

We Believe.....Newsboys

The Lord's Prayer.....Matt Maher

Building Dino-sized Faith in God's Big Plan

Summer Camp for rising Kindergarten – 3rd graders starts tomorrow from 9am-Noon. You can register today in the Lobby or online. You can also register in the morning. Let the fun begin!

Fostering Bulloch Donations

If you can donate toiletry items, please see list in the lobby and take to Hope Chest in downtown Statesboro at 102 Elm Street. Thank you!

Baptism

Next Sunday, June 18th. Use the Communication Card for more information.

Summer Camp Offering

Every year at Summer Camp we have a competition between the boys and the girls as to who can give the most. This year's offering goes to Parker, whom you will meet in the service.