

# **STANDING FOR TRUTH**

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LESSON SIX

# VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **2 Corinthians 6:4-8**...but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, in the **word of truth**, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; *regarded* as deceivers and yet true;
- Truth: *aletheia*: certain beyond any doubt

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH?

# CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

- ❑ People in the early church were concerned about what would happen to people who died before Jesus came back
- ❑ The early church called death "sleep"
- ❑ **John 11:11-12** This He said, and after that He \*said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep." The disciples then said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover."
- ❑ This led to a heresy regarding "soul sleep" which adherents believe is a soul state like limbo after death until the body is redeemed
- ❑ Scripture, however, has a different story to tell

# AFTER DEATH

- **2 Corinthians 5:6-9** Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight— we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.
- **Philippians 1:21-23** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if *I am* to live *on* in the flesh, this *will mean* fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better;

# BODILY REDEMPTION

- **Romans 8:22-23** For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.
- We exist as triune beings: body, soul, spirit
- At death, the soul and spirit separate from the body
- **Luke 16:24-25** "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.'

# JESUS PAID THE PRICE

- Jesus paid the price for redemption of our bodies; He hasn't transacted business with our bodies yet
- So far, Jesus has transacted business with our soul/spirit when we receive Christ
- **1 Corinthians 6:13-15a** Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? ...Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

# WHEN DOES THIS HAPPEN?

- People disagree about the exact time of the bodily resurrection, known as the “rapture”
- Rapture comes from a Latin word “rapturo;” The Greek word is “harpazo;” the English words are “caught up”
- **1 Corinthians 15:42-44** So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable *body*; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual *body*.
- **2 Corinthians 5:1-2** For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven...

# EVENTS SURROUNDING

- Matthew 24: chronology of events at the end of the age
- **Matthew 24:5-8** "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.
- **Matthew 24:11-14** "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.



# ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

- **Matthew 24:15-16** "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), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.
- **Daniel 9:27** "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."
- **Mark 13:14** "But when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

# MAN OF LAWLESSNESS

□ **2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, 8** Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God... Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

# THE RAPTURE

- ❑ Three positions:
  1. before the 7 year tribulation begins
  2. somewhere near or just after the mid-point of the tribulation (pre-wrath)
  3. at the very end of the tribulation
- ❑ Jesus speaks of “tribulation” and “great tribulation;” some people equate “wrath” with “great tribulation”
- ❑ The rapture is not the second coming of Christ
- ❑ The rapture is the bodily snatching up of believers who are living at the time and the snatching up of the bodies of believers that are in graves;

# HERE COMES JESUS

- **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** 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. 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.
- **Matthew 24:30-31** "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.
- **1 Corinthians 15:52...** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.