

1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 4

Lesson 9: The Blessed Hope of the Believer

1Thessalonians 4:13-18

5 February 2024

The term "rapture" is not a word found in the Holy Bible. It is merely an easy term given to that blessed event described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. It is easier than describing it as "The Lord descending from heaven with a shout and catching the dead and living saints up together to meet Him in the clouds." That is what the term "rapture" refers to. This event shall certainly take place and could happen at any moment. It will include both the living saints and those saints who have died in the Lord. The question is, are you looking for Him and will you have any regrets concerning the way you have lived your life on this earth.

I. THE EVENT OF THE RAPTURE

A. It cannot be dated (1 Thess. 4:17) Paul said, "**Then WE which are ALIVE and REMAIN.**" Paul counted himself among the living saints being caught up to meet the Lord.

B. Christians should be looking for the Lord to come at any time. That is the hope that will give you comfort (vs. 18). It will also challenge you to live right for the Lord (1 Jn. 2:28).

II. THE SUBJECTS OF THE RAPTURE: those who BELIEVE (vs 14)

A. **The dead in Christ** (1 Thess. 4:13). They are only pictured as being asleep.

- a. Our sorrow should not be like the sorrow of those who have no hope. That is our past situation (Eph 2:12, Rev. 14:13).
- b. Jesus will bring the dead saints with Him to claim their resurrected, glorified bodies (vs. 14, Jude 14, John 11:25-26)
- c. The living saints will not "prevent" the Lord from coming and resurrecting the dead saints (vs 15). Jesus won't wait for all the saints to die first.
- d. Dead saints will be resurrected first (vs. 16)

B. **The living saints in Christ** (vs. 17) will be caught up after the resurrection of the dead saints.

III. THE PARTICULARS

A. The Lord will call our individual names. This is the "trump" of God. It is his voice, not a trumpet (Rev 4:1, 1:10, Jn 12:28-29, Job 37:1-4).

B. We are to be always looking for the Lord's return (Titus 2:13, Philippians 3:20)

C. We are to be seeking those things above, not things on the earth (Col. 3:1-4)

D. The crown of righteousness is only for those who love **His appearing** (2 Tim. 4:8). It's not for those who love to go to heaven, love to be free from sorrows & pains & troubles etc.

E. The emphasis in this passage is not on our leaving, but on the Lord Jesus Christ's coming.

Note: The early Christians called their burial grounds "cemetery." This is a Greek word meaning dormitory or sleeping chamber.

PERSONAL NOTES ☒
