

Sunday, January 14, 2024

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: Rapture and the Scripture

Series: The Doctrine of the Rapture ... 1

Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 18

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation of the Biblical bases and the necessity of the Rapture.

Introduction:

Last week we were blessed to hear the testimony of Alan and Mary Price, friends from England, and to share in fellowship with them before their return to England. Good to add them to our prayer list!

This week we start a short series on a most unusual doctrine (teaching) of what is referred to as THE ‘RAPTURE.’

1. Rapture – is it found in the Scripture:

~ 1 Thessalonians 4:17,

~ harpazo means: to seize; catch (away, up), pluck, pull, take (by force).

~ harpazo is used 13 times in the New Testament:

Matthew 11:12, Matthew 12:29, Matthew 13:19,
John 6:15, John 10:12, John 10:28 & 29, Acts 23:10,
2 Corinthians 12:2 & 3, 1Thessalonians 4:17,
Jude 1:23, Revelation 12:5

~ So how did we, who speak English, get ‘rapture’ from harpazo? When the Latin Vulgate Bible was produced harpazo was translated into Latin with ‘rapturo’ which means “I seize, I snatch, or I carry away.” The English word ‘rapture’ is not a transliteration of the Greek but of the Latin.

2. Rapture – is it Demonstrated in the Scripture:

~ Enoch – Genesis 5:42 and Hebrews 11:5, “*By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him, now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.*”

~ Elijah – 2 Kings 2:1 and 11, “*Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.*” Vs. 1

~ Jesus – Acts 1:9, “*And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.*”

~ Philip – Acts 8:39, “*And when he came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and he went on his way rejoicing. (40) But Philip found himself at Azotus...*”

~ Paul – 2 Corinthians 12:2 – 3, “*I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. (3) And I know that this man was caught into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God know.*”

~ Body of Christ (the Church) – 1 Thessalonians 4:17, “*Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*”

Maybe Revelation 12:5

3. Rapture – is it Illustrated in the Scripture:

~ John 14:1 – 3 compare this with creation! For those who hold to a literal 6 days of creation the preparation of a dwelling for us is taking much longer.

~ 2 Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

~ To my understanding this portion (John 14:1 – 3) Phas a direct correlation to Jewish weddings: the groom pays the dowry (Christ’s own blood purchases the bride) and then the groom goes to prepare a place for his bride.

~ 1 Corinthians 15:50 - 51, “*I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. (51) Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.*”

Compare with 2 Corinthians 6:14

~ This requires that on the return of Christ for His bride those who are alive MUST be changed!

Conclusion:

Next week we will contrast Christ coming for the Church with Christ coming as King!