

SERMON NOTES

"The Rapture"

I Thessalonians 4

- Today we want to think about the event that will set all of the future Second Coming events in motion . . . the Rapture.
- Hopefully we can answer at least 3 questions about the Rapture:

I. _____

- What is the Rapture of the church?
The Rapture is a supernatural event in which all true believers are suddenly removed from this earth by the power of God.
(I Thessalonians 4:13-18) (II Thessalonians 2:1) (I Thessalonians 5:1-10)
 - note the contrast between they/them and us/we/you
 - note "God has not destined us for wrath" (v. 9)
 - note "whether awake or asleep" (v. 10) (Luke 17:34-36)
 (I Corinthians 15:51-52)
- People will be searching for us:
 - our families out of concern & compassion
 - our foes out of confusion & commitment to their lies

II. _____

- Why is God doing this?
1. An escape (I Thessalonians 1:9-10) (I Thessalonians 5:9-10)
 - Concerning the Second Coming, Jesus said:
 - (Matthew 24:36-38) Noah
 - (Luke 17:28-30) Lot
 - I believe Revelation 4:1 is an allusion to the Rapture. 4 or 5 reasons:
 - A. the sequence of events demand it
(Revelation 1:19) (Revelation 4:1)
 - B. the silence concerning the church
(Revelation 3:22) (Revelation 13:9)
 - C. the Spirit of God has been transferred
(Revelation 4:5) (II Thessalonians 2:6-8)
 - D. the similarity between major Rapture passages
 - Revelation 4:1 voice I Thessalonians 4:16
 - Revelation 4:1 trumpet I Thessalonians 4:16 & I Corinthians 15:52
 - Revelation 4:2 change I Corinthians 15:51
 - Revelation 4:2 immediately I Corinthians 15:52
 - E. the symbolic presence of John in heaven (John 21:20-24)
 2. An embrace "our gathering together to Him" (II Thessalonians 2:1)
"meet Him in the air . . . ever be with the Lord" (I Thessalonians 4:17)

III. _____

- No one knows for sure! (Mark 13:32) (Matthew 24:36; 44)