

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

- 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

- 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

(Daniel 9:24-27) (Jeremiah 30:6) (Romans 11:25)

- 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)