

# **Revival Christian Fellowship**

The Church in the Last Days

The Rapture of the Church, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

March 13, 2022

**Main Point:** The Rapture of the Church.

## **Introduction**

- What promise for Christians is given in John 14:1-6?

## **Understanding**

### **1. The Problem of the Rapture. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13.**

- a. What was Paul's purpose in writing this section?
- b. Paul describes Christians who have died as being "asleep." What does this imply about the Christian's death?
- c. How is the grief of Christians different from the grief of non-Christians?
- d. How can this passage be useful for us? How does it influence our lives?

### **2. The 3 Pillars of the Rapture. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:14-15a.**

- a. What are the three Pillars of the Rapture? Briefly explain each.
  - i.
  - ii.
  - iii.

- b. What assurance does Paul give about those who sleep in Jesus in 1 Thessalonians 4:14? By what authority does he speak?
- c. Why did Paul stake so much on the historical fact of Jesus' resurrection? Read 1 Corinthians 15:17-19 for additional information.
- d. How important is it for today's Christians to believe Jesus literally rose from the dead?

### **3. The Participants of the Rapture. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:15b.**

- a. What two groups of people participate in the Rapture?
- b. Why did Paul include himself with those who were still alive at the coming of the Lord?
- c. Explain what happens the moment a Christian dies?

### **4. The Plan of the Rapture. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.**

- a. How is the coming of the Lord described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17?
- b. Are lost sinners under consideration in this context, either dead or alive? Explain why or why not.
- c. What does it mean that the dead in Christ will arise? What if they have been cremated or their bodies have decomposed? Where was their soul in the interim?
- d. What additional information does Paul give us in 1 Corinthians 15:50-54?

- e. Will we be reunited with our loved ones during the Rapture? Explain.

**5. The Profit of the Rapture. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:18.**

- a. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:18, what benefit can these teachings be to us? Explain how this gives you comfort.

## **Application**

- Would you like for Christ to return in your lifetime? Why or why not?