

“The Comfort Of The Rapture Pt. 1”
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
7/27/25
Message 6

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “The Comfort Of The Rapture Pt. 1”

- **Read –**

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 - 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

- **Studying the End-Times / Rapture**

- **1st We have Come to A portion of scripture which bring up the End Times / Rapture**
 - **A Study that has Consumed a lot of people In the church for many years!!!**
 - All kinds of books...
 - Left Behind Series
 - Hal Lindsey – Late Great Planet Earth
 - And Many More
 - A subject that has - fascinated, confused, and frustrated many
 - **Briefly Explain what happen when is was doing Artwork**

- **Show Pics**

- **2nd About This Study On The Rapture**
 - **Critical to know NOT just WHAT you believe but WHY?**

- That is the purpose of this study

▪ **My Journey**

- Started as a new believer – Believed what Pastor Chuck taught – read Hal Lindsey – All was good
- Over the years SO MANY believed different – just did not want to argue
 - So I took the PAN position – it will all PAN out in the end...
- I still don't want to argue with anyone over this issue BUT
 - The More I studied this issue the MORE Entrenched I became in my PRE-Trib Position!
- If you believe different Know – It is more than OKAY

▪ **Today's Study will be a bit Different**

- More technical
- More a Doctrinal, Theological study then verse by verse
- But I believe that it is Necessary
- So HANG in there

• **BRIEFLY - Explain Different Views of the Rapture / Eschatology**

- **1st Again - Important to respect other views –**
 - Good Christians Disagree on this Subject
 - SO - NO division on this subject

○ **2nd Explain The Timeline**

- The different views center around the Period of time known as the
 - Great Tribulation or The Day of The Lord
 - Which is A 7 - Year period when God pours out judgment on this world –
 - Mainly the last 3.5 years
 - **Show Pic**

○ **3rd Different Views**

- 1st The Pre-Tribulation rapture position – (And RIGHT one...
)
 - Believes, believers are caught up before this final seven-year period.
- 2nd The Mid-Tribulation rapture position
 - Believes believers are caught up in the midst of this final seven-year period
- 3rd The Pre-Wrath rapture position
 - Believes believers are caught up at some time in the second half of this final seven-year period
- 4th The Post-Tribulation rapture position
 - Believes believers are caught up at the end of this final seven-year period.
- 5th Amillennialism
 - There is no 1000 year reign of Christ

- They see it symbolic – “Church Age” – “Spiritual Reign of Christ” Satan is bound in a limited way now
- Amillennialism does not believe in a literal, future millennial reign of Christ on Earth, nor a rapture that precedes a tribulation period

▪ 6th Full Preterist view...

- Believe ALL prophecies have already been fulfilled
- Most believe this view to be heresy

▪ 7th Partial Preterist view

- That most of the Prophecies have been fulfilled only a few are remaining
 - Like the “Return of Christ”
- *Got Questions; The partial preterist viewpoint leads to a belief in amillennialism (or post-millennialism) and is associated with covenant theology. Of course, it rejects dispensationalism. But its main problem is its inconsistent hermeneutic and its allegorizing of many biblical prophecies that are better understood literally. While partial preterism is within the scope of orthodoxy, it is not the majority view among Christians today.”*

• NOTE

- Historically - Preterists and Non-Preterists
- Have generally agreed that the Jesuit Luis de Alcasar (1554–1613) wrote the first systematic preterist exposition of prophecy (Vestigatio Arcani Sensus in Apocalypsi)
- It was published during the “Counter-Reformation”

○ **4th Churches and End time belief**

▪ **Amillennialist Churches**

- Most Reformed
- Presbyterian
- Some Baptist
- Lutheran
- Eastern Orthodox
- Roman Catholic

▪ **Postmillennialist Churches**

- Some Reformed Presbyterian
- Reconstructionist
- Some reformed Baptist

▪ **Premillennialist Churches**

- Most Southern Baptist
- Assembly Of God
- Most Evangelicals
- Fundamentalist
- Dallas Theological Seminary

○ **2nd The Doctrine of The Rapture Is A Controversial Subject**

- 1st Churches Avoiding the subject

- Seems like some churches DON'T even want to take a stand on this Subject anymore
- A friend of mine did some research on this a few years back and found that churches are avoiding this subject –
- Because it's controversial
- They are concerned if they take a stand on this subject that it will offend...
- **2nd Some Scholars are MOCKING the Doctrine of The Rapture**
 - Mainly coming from the
 - Covenant & Reformed Theological Camp / Amillennialism & Post-Tribulation Camp
 - Now at this point let me say something very IMPORTANT
 - Over the YEARS
 - Good Christians have disagreed on this subject
 - I have NO PROBLEM with that whatsoever
 - If you study the BIBLE (Not man's Writings on the subject) and come up with a different conclusion – FANTASTIC
 - We can Agree to Disagree
 - BUT if you are ONLY repeating what you hear others teaching and are being influenced by OUTSIDE source other than Scripture
 - Then this is where I have a problem

- NOW - If I sound Frustrated as I go through this subject

- It's NOT at YOU

- It is at those who are MOCKING
Dispensationalism & The Pre-Trip Rapture
position

- **3rd Deal with just 4 of their MOCKING'S**

- That Those Who Dispensationalist & Pre-Trip Rapture position
 - **1st Have a Escapist Mentality**
 - That ALL we want to do avoid the SUFFERING that Jesus told we would have to endure...

John 15:20 (NKJV)

20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

- Response
 - Have you read Revelation 6-19?
 - Of course we want to escape... haha
 - But seriously – This mocking is putting words in our mouths
 - We have studied the scriptures and have come to a Valid, Scholarly different opinion than yours
 - Such an augment to me is nothing more than a Red Herring...

- Coming from people who lack REAL Evidence of their Position
- **2nd So Heavenly Minded – No Earthly Good**
 - That we won't engage in making a difference in today's world
 - That ALL we want to do is LEAVE and to heck with the world
 - That we will not engage in Politics – Making A difference
 - That we will not be helping those in need
 - Response
 - To be Honest some of our Dispensationalist & Pre-Trip Rapture friends have taking this position
 - That all we need to do is preach the Gospel
 - That we should not be engage here but only preach
 - NOTE
 - I agree the Gospel is the ONLY hope for this world and the ONLY thing that will produce REAL Change
 - BUT also believe that the Gospel in Us Produces Good works...
 - 2 Kings 22-23 Josiah is a great example
 - Thankful what is taking place in our nation

- Abortion defunded Clinics closing down
 - Medical field reversing on Transgender
 - States outlawing LGBTQ flags
- But to Answer their Mocking
 - There are SO many in our camp doing good
 - Franklin Graham
 - Jack Hibbs
 - Gary Hamrick - Senior Pastor of Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg, Virginia
 - And MANY more!
 - So please spare me the lecture...
- **3rd The word “RAPTURE” is NOT even in the Bible**
 - How can you believe in something that is not even in the Bible
 - Have you studied the Bible?!!!
 - Response
 - Now That ALL Depends are what “Language Translation” you are using
 - YES you are correct –
 - In English Bible the word Rapture is not there
 - BUT In Latin Bible –

- The word Rapture is there
- Let's Do a Quick word study

1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NKJV)

17 *Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

- See the Phrase “Caught Up”
 - It is the Greek word - Harpazo
 - Means:
 - To be Snatched Away
 - To be grabbed by the collar and taken up with force, if you will
- When the New Testament was translated into Latin
 - Translators used the word RAPTUS for Harpazo
 - From which we get our word “Rapture.”
- Most English versions of the Bible use “Caught Up” instead of Rapture
 - It doesn't matter what you call it –
 - What matters is that you are going to be a part of it.
- **4th The Doctrine of the RAPTURE is NEW Theology**
 - Their Popular argument
 - John Nelson Darby

- Invented the pre-tribulation rapture doctrine around 1830 AD
 - Some even believing he received this doctrine from a witch
- Then Scofield
 - Influenced by Darby
 - Made it popular with the distribution of the Scofield Reference Bible, first published in 1909
- Response
 - There is So much Evidence that Shows many believed in a Pre-Trib Rapture LONG before Darby
 - **This Accusation is POOR Scholarship**
 - 2 Resources – Show Pics
 - They Show us that many Christians way before Darby believed and taught a Pre-Trib Rapture
 - Recent Pre-Trib Findings by Lee. W Brainard
 - He Points out Ephriam the Syrian (306-373)
 - Believed and taught Pre-Trib Rapture
 - Next week we will look at some of the quotes from this book
 - Dispensationalism Before Darby by William C. Watson

- Briefly Explain Dispensationalism / Pre-Trib Rapture

- The POINT

- If someone uses this argument –
- They have NOT done their home and are most likely just repeating what they heard someone else say

- **Before We move - Simple Brief Explanation Of Dispensationalism**

- Dispensationalism

- *Got Questions; “A dispensation is a way of ordering things—an administration, a system, or a management. In theology, a dispensation is the divine administration of a period of time; each dispensation is a divinely appointed age. Dispensationalism is a theological system that recognizes these ages ordained by God to order the affairs of the world. Dispensationalism has two primary distinctives: 1) a consistently literal interpretation of Scripture, especially Bible prophecy, and 2) a view of the uniqueness of Israel as separate from the Church in God’s program. Classical dispensationalism identifies seven dispensations in God’s plan for humanity.*

- The Seven “Classical” Dispensations

- Innocence (Genesis 1-3)
- Conscience (Genesis 4-8)
- Human Government (Genesis 9-11)
- Promise (Genesis 9 and 11) Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph

- Law (Exodus 12 – Acts 1)
 - Grace / Church (Acts 2 -Revelation 3 & 19)
 - Kingdom (Revelation 20)
 - **4th Concern / Reason for being Entrenched in my Position**
 - **1st The Concern I Have with Other View**
 - Israel – Replacement Theology is WRONG
 - Meaning the church has replace Israel
 - That God is done with Israel and has no Future plans for them
 - God has made an EVERLASTING Covenant With Israel
- Genesis 17:7 (NKJV)**
7 And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.
- **This COVENANT was MADE only BY GOD – One sided**
 - **2nd The Book Of Revelation and other portion of Scripture**
 - Become Allegorized / Mystified
 - Again this is an inconsistent hermeneutic and its allegorizing of many biblical passage that should be taken literally!!!!
 - **2nd Inductive / Systematic / Study**
 - I will show you THROUGH Scripture - Support a Pre-Trib Rapture

- I will ONLY use external resources to disprove their external sources or at least show that Good Scholarship can be found

- If the Bible is interpreted literally and consistently

- The pre-tribulation position is the most biblically-based interpretation

- **6 POWERFUL TRUTH as to why the Rapture Brings Comfort**

- The Rapture Is A Reassurance v. 13
- The Rapture Is A Reality Of The DBR Of Christ v. 14
- The Rapture Is A Revelation From Jesus v. 15
- The Rapture Is A Rescue Mission v. 16
- The Rapture Is A Reunion v. 17
- The Rapture Is A Remedy For ALL Our Struggles v. 18

The Rapture Is A Reassurance v. 13

- **First: Do Not Be Ignorant v. 13a**

- 1st Context v. 13

1 Thessalonians 4:13 (NKJV)

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

- **Paul Taught Them Prophecy**

- In the few weeks Paul was with the Thessalonians
 - He Taught them about the soon return of Jesus
 - That is the main purpose of this letter to answer questions and given them Comfort in the return of Christ
- The Thessalonians believed it earnestly
 - BUT there is some confusion

- They wondered about those Christians who died before Jesus came back.
- They were troubled by the idea that these Christians might miss out on that great future event and that they might miss the victory and blessing of Jesus' coming!
- So Paul Will Now Address that issue
- **Don't BE Ignorant**
 - Ignorant
 - Greek: Agnoéo
 - Means: to perceive, understand. Not to recognize or know
 - Paul's Big Concern
 - Christians Should Not be Ignorant
 - Don't be ignorant about spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1)
 - Don't be ignorant about suffering and trials in the Christian life (2 Corinthians 1:8)
 - Don't be ignorant about the rapture and the second coming of Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:13)
 - Don't be ignorant about God's plan for Israel (Romans 11:25)

Romans 11:25 (NKJV)

25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

- Replacement Theology has to do something with this verse
 - You see I simply see their end view wrong because they get Israel Wrong
- **Application x 2**
 - 1st Don't BE Ignorant
 - Ignorance is still common in the Christian world
 - Because Christian are NOT in the Word
 - A lot of Believers simply repeating what they hear...
 - Again - KNOW WHAT you Believe and WHY
 - 2nd The importance of Teaching Prophecy
 - If Paul taught them prophecy in the 3 Weeks he was with them
 - How much more should we
 - A Third of The Bible deals with Prophecy
 - It is not given to freak us out BUT to bring us comfort
 - It is WRONG not to cover Bible Prophecy!
 - To avoid it for any reason is wrong
 - Mistakes Made by the Church
 - Everything is Prophecy
 - Nothing Is Prophecy
 - The Need for Balance

- Question
 - The Book of Revelation
 - Show of hands
 - How many have studied it?

- **Second: Concerning Those Who Have Fallen Asleep v. 13b**

- **1st Not to be IGNORANT - Who have fallen asleep v. 13b**

1 Thessalonians 4:13 (NKJV)

*13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, **concerning those who have fallen asleep**, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.*

- Sleep was a common way to express death

- Illustration
 - Lazarus sleeping – Dead

John 11:11–14 (NKJV)

11 These things He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.”

12 Then His disciples said, “Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.”

13 However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep.

14 Then Jesus said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.”

- Interesting NOTE
 - The word "Cemetery"
 - Originates from the Greek word koimētērion (κοιμητήριον),
 - Meaning "sleeping place" or "dormitory".

- **For the Believer – Death = Sleep**

- It is important to remember that in the NT “sleep” applies
 - Only to the BODY – NEVER the SOUL
 - Nowhere in the Bible is the soul ever dead or Asleep
 - Only the body
 - There’s no such thing as soul sleep
 - “Soul Sleep”
 - Is a false teaching
 - That the souls of the dead are in a state of unconscious existence in the afterlife
- The Sleep for the believers

2 Corinthians 5:8 (NKJV)

8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Philippians 1:23 (NKJV)

23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

- Moses and Elijah’s souls weren’t sleeping when they appeared to Jesus
- Remember Jesus told the thief on the cross that “today you will be with me in Paradise”
- **Please NOTE**
 - Those who are not in Christ
 - Turn to Luke 16 Eternal Suffering

Luke 16:19–31 (NKJV)

- 19 *“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day.*
- 20 *But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate,*
- 21 *desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.*
- 22 *So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.*
- 23 *And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*
- 24 *“Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’*
- 25 *But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.*
- 26 *And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’*
- 27 *“Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house,*
- 28 *for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’*
- 29 *Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’*
- 30 *And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’*
- 31 *But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’ ”*

• **Third: Lest You Sorrow As Others v. 13c**

- **1st Lest you sorrow as others who have no hope v. 13c**

1 Thessalonians 4:13 (NKJV)

13 *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, **lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.***

- **For the Believer**

- **Death is Dead**
- **So leaving this OLD body**
 - It's like laying down for a nap and waking in glory.
 - It is moving from one place to another
- **Therefore – We may “Grieve” BUT we don’t Grieve without Hope**
 - Sorrow Because God NEVER wanted us to know separation
 - Never gave us the DNA to handle Death
- **So we Grieve BUT not without HOPE**
 - One day we will see our loved ones in Christ again

The Rapture Is A Reality Of The DBR Of Christ v. 14

• First: The DBR is Central in Our Beliefs & Hope v. 14

- **1st If we believe that Jesus died and rose again v. 14**

1 Thessalonians 4:14 (NKJV)

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

- **This is the KEY**
 - If you believe in the DBR of Christ –
 - You have this HOPE
 - The Church (His Bride) is the ONLY people in the world that have this hope

- **We have more than a wishful hope of Resurrection.**

- In the resurrection of Jesus
- We have an amazing example of a promise of our own
- We too will be Resurrected

- **Need Proof**

- 1st The Bible Confirms It
 - That is ALL we need
- 2nd History Confirms it
- 3rd The Boldness of His Disciples Prove it!!!
 - Remember they ALL split (Except John) hiding like little kids!!!
 - Now all of a sudden BOLDNESS...
 - NO ONE willing DIES for a LIE
 - *Charles W. Colson; "I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Everyone was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world-and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible."*
- 4th The Many Changed Lives Prove It
 - We are ALL former...

- Murderers
 - Adulterers
 - Liars
 - Thief's
 - Fill in the blank
- The Power of Changed life!!!
 - How has your life been changed BY His Resurrection!

Closing

• Let's Read through the Rest

- Next week we will finish this chapter

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (NKJV)

13 *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.*

14 *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.*

15 *For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.*

16 *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*

17 *Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

18 *Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

- Let me tease you a bit – Turn to 2 Thessalonians 2:3

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NKJV)

3 *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,*

- Falling Away = Departure / Apostasy

- Scholars disagree
 - Some see Apostasy
 - Some see Departure = Rapture
- This has been a very interesting study
 - I will have more to say later
- But if it just means Departure then this verse would be clear that the Rapture (Departure) comes first then the man of SIN (anti-Christ)
- **ALL this is meant to COMFORT US**
 - It is no wonder why Satan has thrown in so much confusion