

**HE'S COMING BACK – PART VII**  
**“The Rapture”**  
**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

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This is one of the most scrutinized passages in the Bible about the second coming of Christ. It has spawned endless debates about the Lord's coming especially regarding the rapture. What is the rapture? Does it occur before, during, or after the tribulation period? The Thessalonians had some confusion about the event in question that Paul needed to clear up for them. Today's teaching will inform us of the amazing hope we have about our future with Jesus, so get ready to be encouraged!

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**#1. THERE ARE DIFFERENT VIEWS OF LIFE AFTER DEATH, v. 13**

- A. Annihilation of nonbelievers
- B. Universalism – All people go to heaven
- C. Buddhists - Nirvana
- D. Hindus – Reincarnation
- E. Soul sleep – until resurrection
- F. The Jewish view the afterlife – Pharisees vs. Sadducees
- G. Greco-Roman culture had a dismal view of the afterlife
- H. Christians - at death we are with Jesus (disembodied) awaiting resurrection, Phil 1:23, 2 Cor 5:6-8
- I. Christians grieve, but with hope

**#2. THE QUESTION THE THESSALONIANS HAD ABOUT BELIEVERS WHO HAVE DIED BEFORE JESUS RETURNS**

Do believers who have died miss out on the events of the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus?

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**#4. THE HOPE CHRISTIANS HAVE IS ANCHORED IN THE \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_ OF JESUS, v. 14**

- A. We believe Jesus died & rose
- B. We believe God will bring those who have died with Jesus, 1 Cor 15:20-25
- C. Living believers at the return of Christ will not precede the dead in resurrection, John 14:1-3
- D. Living believers' bodies will become glorified, Phil 3:20-21

**#5. THE EVENTS THAT PRECEDE THE RAPTURE, vv. 15-16**

- A. Jesus comes down from heaven
- B. There is a loud command, John 5:28-29
- C. The voice of the archangel
- D. The trumpet call of God
- E. The dead in Christ rise first
- F. The living believers receive their glorified body, 1 Cor 15:50-52
- G. The rapture (*harpazo*) occurs for all believers  
Definition: seize by force; snatch up, suddenly and decisively

**#6. IMPLICATIONS OF JESUS' COMING, vv. 17-18**

- A. We must avoid \_\_\_\_\_ when Jesus returns
- B. We must focus on the \_\_\_\_\_ we have in the afterlife
- C. We will be \_\_\_\_\_ with those who have died
- D. We will be with Jesus \_\_\_\_\_
- E. We must \_\_\_\_\_ one another with these truths

ANSWERS: Death, Resurrection, Predicting, Hope, Reunited, Forever, Encourage.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. Why is it important to have hope in the afterlife?
- #2. Of the views of life after death which seem the most dismal to you and why?
- #3. What happens at the moment of a Christian's death?
- #4. Discuss the misunderstanding that the Thessalonians had about believers who have died before Jesus returns.
- #5. Why is belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus so critical?
- #6. Discuss the events that occurs when Jesus returns.
- #7. Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-5 and discuss how this ties into the discuss of the rapture.
- #8. What happens to the living believers at the return of Christ?  
Philippians 3:20-21
- #9. Why is it fruitless and dangerous to make predictions about Jesus' return?
- #10. Discuss the applications of this teaching for today's believers.
- #11. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

# *Welcome*

*to*

# *Hillcrest Church!*

*Love, Acceptance &  
Forgiveness!*

*They tell us how you turned to God from idols to  
serve the living and true God, and  
to wait for his Son from heaven*

*I Thessalonians 1:9-10*

**September 18, 2022**

**Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **TODAY SEPTEMBER 18TH**

Pastor Bruce will be continuing his series in 1 Thessalonians teaching on the rapture.

### **A BIG THANK YOU**

To all who participated in the work day we appreciate your help!

### **THE 30-DAY PRAYER CHALLENGE: OCTOBER 2 - 31**

You are invited to participate in praying for the revitalization of Hillcrest Church. More details will follow

### **OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup> – POTLUCK AFTER CHURCH**

Bring something to share and enjoy the fellowship and food.

### **ONLINE GATHERINGS**

Tuesday Prayer at 7:00pm, Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30pm  
Go to the online meeting room on our website  
(hillcrestRoseville.com) to access the gathering.

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Our offering box is in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your tithes and offerings there, or you can visit our website and give online (hillcrestroseville.com).

### **FACILITY UPGRADES – THE KITCHEN & UPSTAIRS CHILDREN’S AREA**

We are making great progress remodeling the kitchen and the upper children’s area. If you want to contribute money to this effort write “building fund” in the memo of your check.

### **HALLOWEEN OUTREACH**

We are looking ahead to our outreach October 31. If you would like to help in any capacity please sign up at the offering station or talk to Kathy Brooks.