

# 1 Thessalonians

Week 7: The Rapture of the Church

November 1, 2023

Can you share a moment in time when someone or something was particularly encouraging to you? What was said or done? \_\_\_\_\_

Tonight’s passage of scripture is to bring encouragement to followers of Christ who’s loved ones in the Lord have died. Within it’s words we get a glimpse of prophetic truth concerning our security in Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

### 1. The foundation of the rapture teaching. Vs. 13-14.

We look to the example of Jesus in this matter. Since Jesus rose from the dead and is now with the Heavenly Father, so to shall all who die in Christ. Paul says that this is an important reality to be aware of so Christian’s don’t grieve like people who have no hope.

What does it look like when people grieve with no hope? \_\_\_\_\_

What does it look like when people grieve with hope? \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. The procession of the rapture. Verses 15.

The Dead in Christ will rise first. Then those who are alive at the time will follow. Note that the apostle and other Christians were looking for Jesus to come at any time. “We who are still alive...” Whether it happens in our lifetimes or not, we are to live each day as if it is going to happen today! When it refers to sleep, this is not “soul sleep”. It is the sleep of the physical body. The soul goes to be with the Lord. 2 Cor. 5:6-8;

### 3. The Details of the Rapture. Verses 16-17

The Lord will come down and great sounds will occur. A Loud command, the voice of an archangel and the trumpet call of God. These may be all one in the same sound, a combination of sounds or three different sounds happening in succession. But evidently there will be tremendous sounds that occur on the earth. They may be audibly heard or not by the rest of he world, but I do believe that Christians will hear it. This voice may be the parallel to Revelation 4:1,2 \_\_\_\_\_

“caught up”- Latin: *rapturo*. This is distinct from the 2nd Coming of Christ. Rev. 19:11-21.

The rapture is also described in 1 Cor. 15:50-52 and Matthew 24:36-41 \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. The Encouragement from the Rapture teaching. Vs. 18

For those who long for Jesus this revelation of this future event is a lasting and satisfying hope.

