

Foundations

Rapture

Selected Scriptures

Getting Started

When we talk about the rapture and the second coming of Jesus what is the most frustrating concept, idea, or emotion that you feel? What is the most encouraging?

Among unbelievers, what have you experienced to be the most misunderstood concept or thought about the rapture and the second coming?

Many Christians experience fear when they study the rapture and the second coming. Why do you think that is? How can we help and encourage each other to move from fear to hope?

Going Deeper

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1. According to these verses, what are the promises we can cling to when we lose someone that has been saved by Jesus?

2. Have you ever been to a funeral or seen a funeral of a person that had not been saved? What was that like? What was the atmosphere? How was it different than a funeral of a believer?

3. Should Christians who are grieving for a fellow Christian look different than others who grieve? How so?

4. List the events of the rapture (verses 16 and 17) in order of their occurrence. Also list any further observations. *Example: who participates?*

Verse 18 says that we are to encourage each other with this truth. Does the resurrection usually come to mind when you are trying to encourage someone? You can obviously use this promise to encourage someone who has lost a loved one. Who else might need to hear these verses?

Luke 24

1. Write down observations from these verses about Jesus' resurrected body.

2. What can you learn from these verses about our resurrected body?

3. Do you think Jesus' body was unique or will we have the same resurrected qualities and characteristics? Why do you say that?

Zechariah 14:1-11

This passage does not deal with the rapture, but with the second coming of Christ.

1. What do you notice about what Jesus does in these verses that would lead us to believe that this is a separate occurrence than the 1 Thessalonians text we just looked at?

2. The Lord goes out to fight against those who fight against Jerusalem. Have you ever pictured Jesus as a warrior? Is this surprising to you? Where else in scripture is Jesus revealed as a warrior?

3. List the geographical changes that take place when Christ returns. What conclusions can you draw from these major effects?

4. On that day, "the Lord will be king over the whole earth". What do you think that day will be like for Jesus? For his followers? For his enemies? For the Earth?

5. Does the rapture or the second coming of Christ scare you or encourage you? Do you look forward to that day or fear it?

Hebrews 9:28; 1 Peter 5:4

According to these two passages what reward is promised to believers when Christ returns? Does the promise of this reward influence your outlook on the return of Christ? Why or why not?

Taking it Home...

How could your recognition of the truth that Jesus is coming at any moment have changed the way you faced a situation today? How should it change the way you face a situation tomorrow? How can it make you more self-controlled in these circumstances?

Foundations
Rapture: Am I Ready?

1 Corinthians 15
Pastor Ben Wangler

3 Basic Truths

1. I need _____ not _____ (vs. 3-8)

2. I'll never _____ it. (9-11)

3. We're all _____ if Christ didn't _____ (17-19)

2 Amazing Promises

1. Your _____ rocks. (37; 42-44;49;51-52)

2. _____ will _____ forever (53-56)

Now What?

Give yourself to God's _____not just to _____ (58;10)

