

Only Two Ways Off This Planet

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

March 27, 2011

Revelation Series

Review of March 13 Sermon

- I. What happens when we die? Four preliminary issues.
(The Thessalonians were confused and anxious about death and the rapture. I Thess. 4:13-18)
 - A. There is **life** after death.
(I Cor. 15:22; Rom. 5:12; Matt. 22: 31-32; I Cor. 15:13-20, 3-8)
 - B. Don't be **ignorant** about death. (I Thess. 4:13; Deut. 26:14; Heb. 9:27)
 - C. Don't be **fearful** of death. (I John 4:18; Is. 53:6; Rom. 8:1; I Cor. 15: 54-56)
 - D. Don't be involved in **hopeless** grief. (I Thess. 4:13)
- II. What happens to the Christ follower at death?
 - A. When a Christ follower dies, only the **body** dies (Matt. 27:57-60; cf. John 11)
 - B. When a Christ follower dies, the **soul** goes to be with the Lord.
(II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; Lk. 23:43)
- III. When our bodies are raised, what will they be like?
 - A. The body will be raised **imperishable**. (I Cor. 15:42)
 - B. The body will be raised in **glory**. (I Cor. 15:43; I Jn. 3:2; Mk. 9:6)
 - C. The body will be raised in **power**. (I Cor. 15:43)
 - D. The body will be raised a **spiritual** body. (I Cor. 15:44; Luke 24)
- IV. What about those whose bodies are destroyed at the instant of death (fire, explosions, war etc.)? Will God be able to raise them as well?
 - A. What is **sown** is not what is **reaped**. (I Cor. 15:37)
 - B. God has no problem making something **new** out of something **old**.
(Rev. 21:5; Acts 26:8)
 - C. We will be able to **recognize** each other in heaven.
 - D. There will be no **marriage** in heaven. (Matt. 22:30)
- V. What of those who were aborted? Still born? What about children who die before the age of accountability?
 - A. They are at **peace**. (Ecc. 6:3-5; Job 3: 11-17)
 - B. They will not **come back** to us but in Christ we will go to them.
(II Sam. 12:23b; Heb. 9:27)

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- VI. What is the etymology of the word "Rapture" and what are some of the nuances of the Greek word we translate "caught up"?
 - A. We get our word "Rapture" from the Latin word "raptō".
The Greek word [harpazo] is translated "caught up".
(I Thess 4:17)
 - B. What are some other meanings (nuances) of the word we translate "caught up"?
It can mean...
 1. To **catch away speedily**. (cf. Acts 8:39; I Cor. 15:52)
 2. To **seize** by force. (cf. John 6:15; Gen. 19:16)
 3. To **move** to a new place. (cf. II Cor. 12:1-4)
 4. To **rescue** from danger. (cf. Acts 23:10)
- VII. How will the Rapture come about?
At the Rapture...
 - A. The Lord will come down **from heaven...but not to earth**.
(v. 16a; cf. Acts 1:11)
 - B. An **archangel** and **trumpet call** will accompany Christ. (v. 16b)
 - C. Christ followers who have preceded us in death will **come with** Christ for a great reunion in the clouds. (v. 14)
 - D. Christ will **command** the bodies of Christian dead to come forth from the grave. (v. 16; Jn. 5:25-28)
 - E. The bodies of the **dead** in Christ will rise **first**. (v. 15)
 - F. **Alive** Christ followers (at the time of the Rapture) will be "caught up" to meet the Lord and those who have preceded us in death in the air. (v. 17; cf. Gen. 5:24 & II Kgs. 2:11))
- VIII. When will the Rapture occur?
 - A. It could happen at **any moment**.
 - B. There are **no signs** or prophecies left to be fulfilled before the Rapture occurs.
 - C. The Rapture will occur **before** the Tribulation begins.



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