

The Rapture 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

I. The R_____ (vs. 13-14)

- a. ***we do not want you to be uninformed*** (cf. Rom. 1:13; 11:25; 1 Cor. 10:1; 12:1; 2 Cor. 1:8)
- b. ***the fate of those who are asleep***
 - i. ***sleep—koimaō (κοιμᾶω)*** = "to sleep, as a euphemistic expression for the state of being dead" (John 11:11; Acts 7:60; 1 Cor. 11:30; 15:18, 51)
 - ii. "soul sleep" is a false teaching (cf. Luke 23:43; James 2:26; 2 Cor. 5:8)
- c. ***so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.***
 - i. "Oh, that there were some divine word upon which we could more securely and less perilously sail, upon a stronger vessel." (Socrates)
- d. Jesus' Power of Resurrection is proof of His Power to ***bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus***

II. The R_____ (vs. 15-17)

- a. **Rapture = *Rapturo*** (Latin) = "caught up," "carrying off," or "to transport"
- b. Timing of the Rapture
 - i. Pre-Trib—Before the Tribulation
 - ii. Mid-Trib—Halfway through the Tribulation
 - iii. Post-Trib—At the end of the Tribulation
- c. 3 Reasons for a Pre-Trib Rapture:
 - i. Jesus' second coming involves a literal coming to earth, but in this text, He only comes in the air (cf. Zech. 14:3-4; Ezek. 11:23; 47:1-10; Isa. 64:1, 2; Mic. 1:3, 4; Hab. 3:6; Zech. 4:7; 14:8; Rev. 19:11-21)

- ii. The church dominates the first 4 chapters of Revelation and then disappears until Jesus' return in chapter 19 (cf. Rev. 3:10)
- iii. If Jesus has paid for the church's sins, why would God have the church suffer His wrath during the Tribulation? (cf. Rom. 8:1)
- d. 5 Truths about the Nature of the Rapture:
 - i. The A_____
 1. ***by the word of the Lord*** (cf. 1 Thess. 4:8; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; John 5:24-29; 11:21-27)
 - ii. The A_____
 1. ***will not precede those who have fallen asleep.***
 - iii. The A_____
 1. ***the Lord Himself will descend from heaven***
 - iv. The A_____
 1. ***a shout, with the voice of the archangel*** (cf. Dan. 10:13; Matt. 25; Mark 8:38; Jude 9)
 2. ***the trumpet of God*** (Ex. 19:16-19; Zep. 1:16; Zec. 9:14)
 - v. The A_____
 1. ***caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air*** (1 Cor. 15:50-57ff; 2 Cor. 5:4)

III. The R_____ (v. 18)

- a. ¹⁸ ***Therefore comfort one another with these words***