

OUTLINE 02/15/26
The Rapture of the Church
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV)

Learning the truths about Jesus' return helps us live without fear or confusion.

Rapture- *the belief that both living and dead believers will ascend into heaven to meet Jesus Christ at the Second Coming.* Britannica.com

1. Jesus' return is instructive.

¹³ Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. ¹⁴ We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

2. Jesus' return is imminent.

¹⁵ According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16

3. Jesus' return is encouraging.

¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage each other with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

How to Receive Christ:

"Dear Jesus, thank You for loving me even though I'm a sinner. I ask for your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sin and that You rose from the dead. I trust You as my Savior and follow You as Lord, from this day forward. Amen."

**JOIN US NEXT WEEK FOR:
THE DAY OF THE LORD**

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some ways that people are ignorant about death or have no hope?
2. How will Christ return and what happens when He does (vs.14-17)?
3. What encouragement does this passage give us and how can we encourage others?