

Biblical Prophecy And The Rapture Of The Church

September 6, 2020

Jay Velasquez: Elder, The Church at LifePark

Main Idea: Why your understanding of the rapture of the Church matters

Three take-aways about the rapture of the Church

1. The rapture of the Church is a biblical doctrine.

Do not let your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In my Father's house are many dwelling places (mansions); if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

John 14:1-3

2. The rapture of the Church is the believer's hope.

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not proceed those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

I tell you a mystery we will not all sleep but we will all be changed ⁵² in a moment in a twinkling of an eye... 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:9

But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. Romans 5:8-9

Application: The rapture of the Church should be the great motivator.

(i) To deny worldly desires and to live righteous and godly lives.

(ii) To fulfill our duty as watchman proclaiming "repentance and salvation."

When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak to warn the wicked man from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require from your hand. Ezekiel 3: 18; Ezekiel 33: 8 (identical language)

(iii) To be anticipating imminently and joyfully the return of our Lord.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, ¹² instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus... Titus 2:11-13

(iv) To encourage and comfort one another.

1 Thessalonians 4:18