

# ***Three Key Facts about the Rapture Believers Need to Know***

## ***1<sup>st</sup>: Is the Rapture Really Taught in Scripture?***

### **John 14:1-3**

Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. **And 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.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 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, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. **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 shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain **shall be caught up** [*“rapturo” in the Latin (Vulgate) translation...this is the basis for the English term “Rapture”*] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

### **1 Corinthians 15:51-54**

Behold, I tell you a mystery; **we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed**, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

## *1: The Rapture is Imminent*

Imminence: an impending event that could take place at any moment, not necessarily soon/immediately but quickly/suddenly and without warning

### **Revelation 22:12**

Behold, **I am coming quickly**, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

### **Revelation 4:1-2**

After these things I looked, and behold, **a door *standing* open in heaven**, and the first voice which I had heard, like *the sound* of a trumpet speaking with me, said, **Come up here**, and I will show you what must take place after these things

## *2: The Rapture Will Initiate the End-Times*

### **1 Thessalonians 1:9-10**

For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath* (of the Tribulation) **to come**.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

The Rapture Event is Described (Christians Up and Out of Earth)

### **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Immediately Followed by the Tribulation on Earth (Described in Revelation 6-18) Which in Turn Leads to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of Christ (Revelation 19)

## *3: The Rapture Should Impact Believers In Practical Ways Now*

### **Titus 2:11-14**

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, telling us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, **looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus**; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

### ***For Believers the Rapture is a/the Blessed “Hope”***

Hope: NT Greek word *ἐλπις* = faith directed forward in active anticipation

IOWs: looking forward to something we know will happen in the future

#### **1 John 2:28-3:3**

And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears [at the Rapture] we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming... See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.

#### **1 Corinthians 15:58**

Therefore (in light of the imminent Rapture as described in 15:51-57), my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.

Our Hope: Both Comforting-Encouraging Us to Walk Wisely/+Righteously  
AND Convicting-Exhorting Us to Avoid Sin/Selfishness/Shortsightedness

## ***Take This To Heart***

### **The Rapture of the Church**

#### **1: Is Imminent**

*It Could Take Place at Any Moment*

#### **2: It Will Initiate the End-Times**

*Which Will in Turn be Climaxed by the Literal, Visible, Supernatural, Undeniable 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of Christ to Earth*

#### **3: It Should Impact Us in Practical Ways Now**

*Encouraging Us to Be Spiritually Steadfast and Immovable,*

*Always Abounding in the Work of the Lord, Knowing That  
Our Toil is NOT in Vain in/for the Lord*