

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

What the Rapture is Ultimately All About

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as *(in the same ways as)* do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose *(was resurrected)* again, even so God *(the Father)* will bring with Him *(Jesus)* those who have fallen asleep *(died)* 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 *(in the Rapture/parousia)*, shall not precede *(in resurrection)* those who have fallen asleep *(those believers who have died before the Rapture)*. 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 *(be resurrected)* first. Then we who are alive and remain *(on the Earth up to that point)* shall be **caught up** [*the "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 *(John 14:1-3). Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

Behold, I tell you a mystery; **we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed...**The dead will be raised imperishable, and we [*"who are alive and remain"*] shall be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable and this mortal must put on immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:51-54

Interpretation

What Does This Passage MEAN in its Context?

The Rapture is all about the "LBS-Resurrection" of Church Age believers

Application

What Does THIS MEANING MEAN in My Conduct?

The now is real and important, but it is not ultimate and is only temporary.

Believers in Jesus Christ are TDY-Planet Earth/awaiting PCS-Heaven and this fact should motivate us to be "steadfast, immovable, abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our toil is not *in vain* in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:58
IOWs: we should be encouraged to live wisely/+R AND we should be convicted to avoid sin/selfishness/shortsightedness