

The Rapture

The rapture will occur unexpectedly, **immediately preceding the seven-year tribulation** (pre-tribulation rapture). The rapture of the Church will occur at the end of the church age and all the saints, both dead and alive, will be caught up in the air to be forever with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-52). Christ's coming to take His Church away at the rapture **is imminent** and will come like a thief in the night (1 Thess. 5:2; Titus 3:13)

– Doctrinal Statement, Grace Church of Tallahassee

Our ultimate hope is not a disembodied existence, but a bodily resurrection in the pattern of Christ's own resurrection. – Kevin Zuber, *Heaven and Hell*.

1 Cor. 15:22-24 – “Christ the Firstfruits”

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

- His resurrection was bodily (Lk. 24:1-12)
- His resurrection body was recognizable (
- His resurrection body was “a body fit for glory” (Phil. 3:20-21)

For those in Christ, where does this resurrection take place?

Key Text:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- V. 13 -15 Context...The churches concern that those who had preceded them in death would be at a disadvantage in regards to this eschatological event.
- “do not want you to be uninformed, brothers” (v. 13)
 - o 1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Thess. 2:5
- “those who have fallen asleep”
- V. 16-17
 - o “For” – this is what is going to happen
 - o “The Lord Himself”
 - o “Will descend”

- Three distinct sounds;
 - “command”
 - “voice of the archangel”
 - “sound of the trumpet of God.
 - “the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive”
 - “will be caught up”
 - To “snatch”
 - Latin; “*rapere*”
 - “together...in the clouds”
 - “to meet the Lord in the air”
 - “always...with the Lord”
- V. 18
- “Encourage one another with these words”

When will this take place?

- Imminent, (v. 17...we who are alive)
- Before the Tribulation

Arguments for a Pretribulational Rapture;

- 1) Imminence
- 2) Escaping the Wrath to Come
- 3) John 14:3

For Further Study:

- Kevin Zuber, *Heaven and Hell, Ch. 10-11.* (: CLC Press, 2023)
- Jack Hughes, *The Rapture of the Church: The Resurrection and Glorification of Believers*, Lesson 4.
- Brad Klassen, Sermon: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, *Our Sure and Glorious Comfort.*