

11/14/21

att 36  
FB 9

## Sermon – The Rapture

Scripture – Mt 24:4-8, 1 Thes 4:15-18, 1 Corinthians 15:50-52.

Main Message – Know this one important fact, you will never be in the flesh when before Jesus

Sound Biblical Doctrine are elements of our Faith that establish a framework to prevent heresies and blasphemy from destroying the purity of our Faith. We believe in the redemptive act of Christ on the Cross and that we are all saved by His Grace solely upon our faith in Jesus and not by anything we could possibly accomplish. That is good sound biblical doctrine. No one comes to God, the Father except through the son, which is also sound doctrine. We have articles of Faith here in this church that support several of such doctrines. Most of them are straightforward and easily understood. Anyone who says there are many paths to God, are not preaching the gospel told to us by our church fathers. Period. Run Away.

However, there are mysteries in the Bible. Things that are debatable because we do not fully understand it our have witnessed it. These are things to know about, but not to divide believers in battles that cannot be won. One of those things is something that I have avoided in sermons at all costs. That is the concept of the “The Rapture.” Because of the times in which we live, which is becoming clearer by the day is what Jesus calls the “birth pangs.” All the women who have given birth know this feeling. It is a period, which has some surprise pain to it, but it is clearly not the full throws of labor or the moment of giving birth. As I am told and have borne witness too. **Mt 24:4-8**

People are obsessed with timelines. I tell your right now, come out of that mindset. I get it. We want to know the details of when, why, how. Very human of us all. The goal today is to give you a single point to focus on regardless any details you believe to be true. But first....

**Pre-Tribulation Rapture.** This seems to be very popular and taught by many. There are websites devoted to this concept. The belief is that the Church will be taken out of here before the antichrist is revealed to us in the world, which ushers in the 42-month tribulation period.

**Mid Tribulation Rapture** – This isn't as popular, but has its following whereby the tribulation period being 7 years long with the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 3.5 years as the Great Tribulation, nevertheless those who believe in Jesus Christ are taken out of here.

**Post Tribulation Rapture** – This means everyone goes through the tribulation and that point of “rapture” and Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming are in a practical sense the same thing though that is argued by some as well

There are others, like pre-wrath, no rapture at all, etc... but which are all irrelevant when I get to the single point you must understand. Now there are many details stuffed into each of these for those who want to prove they have the correct understanding of the timing of the rapture. Regardless of which one you may subscribe to, **ONLY ONE CAN BE RIGHT.** There are good, Godly, saved people in each of those camps. It is not a proven doctrine that should divide us in any way.

**1 Thes 4:15-18** – So these words are true. Forget the when, what is the state of them who are Caught up which is where the word Rapture, sorta kinda comes from?

**1 Corinthians 15:50-52.** These words are true as well. Forget the when, what is the state of them who are changed in the twinkling of the eye”

We will never be standing, or kneeling, or floating, or anything else before Christ when alongside all other believers if we are still embodied in the flesh as we are now. If you can stick yourself with a needle and bleed, you have not been raptured. I think 99% of those who believe in a rapture of any kind and any timing all agree that we are no longer in our fleshy bodies.

**Mathew 24:23-28 NASB**

If we haven't been changed out of this body, leaving it behind for the vultures to eat, then Christ has not raptured us.