

3 – THE RAPTURE (1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18)

I. Believers Who Have Died (1 Thessalonians 4:13)

A. The Issue (1 Thessalonians 4:13a)

- Paul did not want them to be ignorant about those who have died waiting for Jesus' return.
- They were concerned that dead believers would not be a part of the second coming.

B. Paul's Intent (1 Thessalonians 4:13b)

- He will instruct them so that they don't grieve like those who don't have an eternal hope.

II. The Promise (1 Thessalonians 4:14)

A. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:14a)

- Paul stated that Christians believe the gospel in that Jesus died and rose again.

B. The Resurrection of the Dead (1 Thessalonians 4:14b)

- He also stated that those who have died as believers will be with Jesus Christ.

III. The Rapture Described (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17)

A. The Source of His Teaching (1 Thessalonians 4:15a)

- Paul tells his readers that Jesus is the source of his teaching concerning the rapture.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:23 (ESV)

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread,

B. The Promise for Believers (1 Thessalonians 4:15b)

- Believers, who are alive at the coming of Jesus, will not precede believers who are dead.

C. The Events of the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

1. The Lord Descends (1 Thessalonians 4:16a)

- At the shout of an angel and sound of a trumpet, Jesus himself will descend.

2. The Dead in Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:16b)

- As Jesus descends, those who have died as believers in Christ will rise first.

The Prophecy Series: The Epistles

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:52 (ESV)

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.

3. The Believers Caught Up (1 Thessalonians 4:17a)

- The believers who are alive will be caught up (raptured) with those who had been dead.
- We will meet Jesus in the air.

4. Duration (1 Thessalonians 4:17b)

- Paul tells his readers that from that moment on, believers will always be with Jesus.

IV. The Encouragement (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

- Paul tells them that they are to comfort and encourage each other with this truth.