

# WHAT'S NEXT FOR PLANET EARTH?

## *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and other Scriptures*

The nearness of the Rapture, and what it means for true believers

Series:  
*What is Going On?  
Today's World  
Through the Eyes  
of Scripture*  
June 6, 2021

### LET'S GET STARTED

Jesus is coming back! Believers have clung to that assurance for two thousand years. In today's message, we look at what the Bible reveals about the Rapture of the Church, and why our awareness of that event encourages us and spurs us to live for Christ as we await it.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18—<sup>13</sup> Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage each other with these words.

### Responses—Right and Wrong—to the Rapture

- \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thessalonians 4:13)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 1:11)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Philippians 3:20)

### Quotable

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*Whenever God gives us  
a glimpse of the end times  
or of heaven, it is always  
for the purpose of helping  
us live more faithfully  
on earth.*

—John MacArthur

*I've read the last page of  
the Bible, it's all going  
to turn out all right.*

—Billy Graham

### If you would like to know more

*A Quick Look at the Rapture and the Second Coming*, by Tim LaHaye (Harvest House, 2013)

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## LET'S HEAR THE WORD

- The New Testament teaches the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Rapture.

The word *imminent* means "likely to happen at any moment; impending."

1 Corinthians 1:7—Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

Philippians 4:5—Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

James 5:8—You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

Revelation 1:3—Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

- No prophecies remain that must be fulfilled \_\_\_\_\_ the Rapture.
- The imminence of the Rapture should compel us to \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ.

Romans 13:11-14—<sup>11</sup> And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

## LET'S LIVE IT

We can put today's truth into practice by living each day as we want to be found living when the Rapture happens.

If you would like to speak to any of our Pastors about a spiritual need in your life, here is their contact information:

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Pastor David: Office extension 11, email: dcoleman@crowfieldbaptist.org

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You may also discover what the Bible says about how to become a Christian by visiting the following page on our website: <http://www.crowfieldbaptist.org/salvation/>