

Thessalonians 4:13-18

The Rapture - a doctrine which deals with the transformation of the redeemed into a glorified state at Christ return.

(v.13) But I would not have you to be ignorant,

Paul thought it was important enough to teach on the up coming rapture.

They should not be un informed.

So they would not grieve as do others who have no hope.

It shows that death is not the end and there is much mor in store for us

If we know this event is coming, we should be ready.

(v.14) God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep - this proved that He has power over death and all who believe in Jesus will have eternal life even though they die. See (1 Cor.15).

The term "fallen asleep" - used by Jesus in (Luke 8:52) death as a temporary state.

God will bring with Him. The Him refers to Jesus. God will send these believers with Jesus when He returns for the rest of the church.

(v.15) - "We who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord."
he is not waiting for everyone to die - He going to come back for us!

No true believer will be disappointed - those who die first- will be with Jesus first - none will be left out - and we which are alive caught up together.

This make clear that Jesus had another plan in mind beyond just "wait for everyone to die" He not waiting for some end of the world catastrophe - He has a plan in mind. He coming back for us! (John14)

(In v.16) "The Lord Himself . Jesus Himself is coming back for us. This shows us the vast importance of this event.

God sends His own Son. - not prophets-apostles or angelic messengers as in the past.

Will descend .. Jesus will leave heaven and come down to the world to receive us.

With a shout, the voice of the archangel (Michael) the trumpet of God.

(This is going to be a NOISY event. Its going to be public

The dead Christ will rise first - these will not be forgotten.

The question my be what will this body look like ?

Jesus' post-resurrection body could give us an hint:

He ate

He could go through solid objects

You could touch Him

In (vs.17 Caught Up - the Latin - (rapturo) even though the term is not found in the Greek - Rapture - "Caught up" is .

An example of this event happened to Enoch and Elijah.

This will be a grand reunion of all believers.

In the air - this is a key difference between this event and the second coming.

In the second coming Jesus returns all the way to earth, setting His feet on the Mount of Olives (Zac. 14:4-5)

So we shall always be with the Lord - the key point about the Rapture - we will forever be with the Lord- more than being in Heaven, new bodies, or even seeing loved ones again.

In (vs.18) Comfort one another with these words -

Urgency to share the gospel

We can know what to say

We do not need to despair about death

We must be ready for the Rapture

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The Day of the Lord - refers to the End Times period

Teaching Points

(v.1) "But of the times and seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you."

*times and dates - this follows after the passage at the end of Chp.4 and could/should be studied together with that passage. It would be natural for the Thessalonians to want to know when the things Paul described in Chp.4 would happen. When would the rapture occur? When would Jesus call up the saints to meet the Lord in the air? What else would happen after this?

(v.1b) You have no need of anything to be written to you." He write them about it as if they didn't need to be written about it. He affirms and encourages them work what they are doing well rather than rebuking them for any shortcomings they have.

(v.2) "For yourselves know." This was not a new teaching. They had already been taught on these issues. - most of the times we do not need new teaching.

Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes that there is nothing new under the sun. But they needed to be reminded of the things they had already learned. Let be open and teachable when those reminder come.

(2b) “that the [Day of the Lord] so cometh” the day of the Lord appears to refer to the general period of the end times. The end times is an “epoch” - a memorable date or event that begins a new period or development - that it is still yet future.

End times - one could - say now is the day of Satan in the world - Satan appears to be winning. From the time of Adam and Eve rebellion reigned.

One day all that is going to change. The Lord is going to reveal Himself, he will take an active and viable role in the world. That will be His, time in victory.

He will pour out wrath and judgment on those who mock Him.

He will punish Satan and all his followers.

He will roll back the curse.

During the day of the Lord, Jehovah will take center stage.

(2b) Like a thief in the night - He will com suddenly and unexpectedly. There will be no announcement. By not giving specific time of His return, it helps believers at all times prepare since it is always imminent.

(v.3) “They” are saying “peace and safety.” They refers to unbelievers. People will feel safe and secure. Culture will tell people to live for the moment and enjoy what they have worked for. People will feel like the rich fool in Luke who accumulated lots of worldly wealth and become satisfied and complacent with the riches he had stores up for himself.

(3b) then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child. Labor pains — in (Mark 13:1-8) we learn that Jesus’ second coming will be like a woman who suffers birth pangs before finally going into labor. So remember some of the signs in that chapter.

Jesus’ second coming is like this. We already know it going to happen - Paul tell us that destruction will come upon all of those who are unprepared. It often contrasts what our lives would be like without Christ to what our lives are like with Christ. Without Christ we would face destruction/fiery- judgement.

*At that time there will be no escape.

(vv.4-5) But - you are not in darkness— that the day should overtake you as a thief. We don’t have face that. We don’t have to live in the dark at the mercy of the thief. It we trust in Christ then we are sons of the light/day.

(v.5) Ye are children of the light:

We know the truth. If the light is on you can see in front of you. If you walk in the dark, you will not know the danger in front of you and may fall into a pit.

God guides and directs us and tells us what we need to know so that we can make wise decisions about the future.

We are to live in the light of the truth and reflect the light of Christ to those around us by being a good testimony.

Application:

Paul gives us the most important applications we should make based on what we learn in this passage.

(vv. 6-8) - Let us watch- we should be ready - Be Alert - do not be caught sleeping. This requires a great deal of self-discipline - Disciple yourself to study and memorize the Word, to pray and to regularly participate in fellowship.

Be sober - serious minded - prepare ourselves for the attack of the enemy. That requires putting on the spiritual armor.

(v.9). "For God hath not appointed us to wrath" - this is one of the key verses for believing in a Pre-tribulation Rapture. The tribulation will be a period when God pours out His wrath/judgement on this world for its rebellion against Him.

God does not want us to face His wrath.

Discipline is different than wrath - a father will lovingly discipline his children, but that different from a fierce wrath.

*Believers can be spared the wrath of God - during the tribulation.

(v.10) shows us that we can only be saved because of Christ's death for us. He paid the price so that we could experience the freedom and the blessing.

(v.11). Encourage one another and build up one another.

[Q] what will you do this year to work while it is still light?

[Q] what can you do to through out the course of the year to be alert and to be sober?

[Q]} what will you do to encourage and build up brothers/sisters in Christ?

Cross-references on the Day of the Lord:

(Joel2:31)

(Obadiah 1:15)
(Malachi 4:5)
(Philippians 1:9-10)
(2Peter 3:10)

Verses on Living in the Light:

(Ephesians 5:8) - "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light."

(John 9:4) - " As long as it is day , we must do the work of Him who sent Me. Night is coming, when no one can work."

(Romans 13:12) - " 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.

(Philippians 2:15) " So that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them as stars in the sky."

(1John 1-7) - " But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the Blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all [a]sin.