



World Christian Fellowship

60, High Worples, Rayners Lane, Harrow
Middlesex, HA2 9SZ, United Kingdom

www.wcflondon.com

wcflondon@gmail.com

Jesus Christ Second Coming – Lesson 5

Rapture - Process

In the last lesson we saw the promise of we are being taken away by the Lord Jesus Christ to heaven to be with Him.

Now this lesson let us look at the process of how we will be taken away to be with Him?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, ¹³ *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them*

in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

As I said in the introduction video of the Thessaloniki church where Apostle Paul spent approximately three Sabbaths, which is only 21 days. (Acts 17:1-5)

Acts 17:1-4, *Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and **for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures**, ³ explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.”*

This church had mixture of both Greek as well as Jews but they did have some exposure on the rapture from Apostle Paul. Possibly Paul had spoken to them about Eschatology in some details.

1 Thessalonians 1:10, and to **wait for His Son from heaven**, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

So they were waiting for the Son of God to come down any time!

I can only imagine that they must have been getting up every day thinking and expecting may be its today... what a wonderful way to wait for Him.

In the meanwhile, there were reports and letters circulating that the Lord had come already.

2 Thessalonians 2:2, *Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ²not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.*

So some of them left their job and sitting and eating and became a burden for others.

Another issue about the people who are dead. If I am alive then I can be taken up with the Lord but what happens if someone is already dead?

This where Paul is writing to them about this glorious process of how the Lord will come.

So, in chapter 4 Verse 13 Paul says, *concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.*

It's not about soul sleeping which we dealt very clearly there is no soul sleeping, if you have not seen please

watch that video on our lesson what happens when you die series.

In this section of 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 Paul is dealing with the resurrection of the bodies not the soul. It's about bodily resurrection.

See in **1 Thessalonians 5:10**, *who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.*

If you are believer in Lord Jesus Christ then, whether you're awake or asleep in biblical terms, you're with Jesus.

The body that is at rest, It's the body that mentioning here. Them who are asleep, those bodies who are sleeping. Now Paul says, "*brethren you don't need to be ignorant concerning those whose bodies are asleep.*"

They are not going to be second-class in resurrection. They are not going to get in the lower levels of heaven. They are not even going to have to wait extra time for their resurrection.

The dead will have priority in resurrection!

Just before giving them, the comfort Paul goes on to say how Jesus Christ was dead and raised to new life and was given a new body.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

Jesus resurrection guarantees the resurrection of our bodies too.

John 14:19, *“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. **Because I live, you will live also.**”*

When Jesus comes back to meet us in the air when the rapture takes place, HE is going to bring some people with Him. The spirits of those believers who have already died and who have not yet received their glorified bodies.

So, when the Lord returns in the rapture, with Him are going to be all the spirits of the dead saints of the church age. Those who come along with Jesus are going to get reunited with their bodies. All those spirits that have been longing for bodies are going to get them, glorified bodies! It will be a glorious scene!!

So, Paul is telling them that don't worry about the dead ones because they are going to get their bodily resurrection first before you who are living will caught up with Jesus. So those who are precede over you, the living.

*¹⁵For this we say to you **by the word of the Lord**, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will **by no means precede those who are asleep**.*

The anticipation of a bodily resurrection after life on this earth permeates the entire Bible. In the oldest book of the Bible, Job declares:

Job 19:25-27, *For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; ²⁶And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, **That in my flesh I shall see God,** ²⁷Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*

Yet, when our Lord comes to gather His church, there will be a generation alive at that time. In his discussion of the Resurrection in his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul again deals with this astonishing event,

1 Corinthians 15:51-55, *⁵¹Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised*

incorruptible, and we shall be changed.⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."⁵⁵ "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

Bible teaches us to expect Him at any moment. This is may take place very soon at any time.

Sequences mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18,

1. Jesus will descend from heaven
2. Lord will come with shout
3. A cry of command, the voice of an archangel
4. The trumpet of God
5. The dead in Christ will rise first
6. We who are alive will be caught up

Jesus will call the saints those who are alive!

John 10:16, Jesus said My sheep will hear My voice. So those who are alive will hear His voice.

What about the dead saints?

John 5:28, *Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all **who are in the graves will hear His voice***

Do you remember what happened at the tomb of Lazarus?

John 11: 43, *Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, **“Lazarus, come forth!”***

The joyous shout of the archangel Michael. I am sure they will be rejoicing for this Day.

Trumpet sound of praise and summon for the people to come for the war but I somehow see this is more of Praises with Joy.

Then the dead in Christ, NOT the Old Testament saints, will get their body back from their grave.

Afterwards those who are alive will be caught up with Him.

V17, ¹⁷ *Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And **thus we shall always be with the Lord.***

We will be with the Lord forever!!

We will be changed with glorious body as apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15. But the wonder of wonder is you and me will be with HIM forever!!

2 Corinthians 5:1-3, *For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, ³if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.*

We will be back home!

Come home my dear brothers and sisters!!

Two Events?

There are many that hold to the view that emerged in the Medieval church (Catholic and Protestant) that the "Second Coming" of Christ and the "Rapture" are somehow the same. Yet there seems to be a number of indications that these are distinct and separate.

In contrast to the imminent gathering of His church, there are numerous passages that deal with precedent events which must transpire prior to the "Second Coming" to

establish His kingdom on the earth. Some of the passages referring to the Rapture and the Second Coming are summarized at the table below.

Rapture	Second Coming
John 14:1-3	Dan 2:44-45
Romans 8:19	Dan 7:9-14
1 Corinthians 1:7-8	Daniel 12:1-3
1 Corinthians 15:1-53	Zechariah 14:1-15
1 Corinthians 16:22	Matthew 13:41
Philippians 3:20-21	Matthew 24:15-31
Colossians 3:4	Matthew 26:64
1 Thessalonians 1:10	Mark 13:14-27
1 Thessalonians 2:19	Mark 14:62
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Luke 21:25-28
1 Thessalonians 5:9	Acts 1:9-11
1 Thessalonians 5:23	Acts 3:19-21
2 Thessalonians 2:1 (3?)	1 Thessalonians 3:13

1 Timothy 6:14	2 Thessalonians 1:6-10
2 Timothy 4:1	2 Thessalonians 2:8
Titus 2:13	2 Peter 3:1-14
Hebrews 9:28	Jude 14-15
James 5:7-9	Revelation 1:7
1 Peter 1:7, 13	Revelation 19:11-20:6
1 John 2:28-3:2	Revelation 22:7, 12, 20
Jude 21	
Revelation 2:25	
Revelation 3:10	