**The First Baptist Church of Columbus**

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**Sermon Notes Outline for video posted February 21, 2021**

**T I T L E: The Rapture of the Church**

**T E X T: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**I. The CERTAINTY of the rapture is rooted in fulfilled prophecy particularly**...

“...will be caught up...” V. 17

 **A.** **...the incarnation of Christ.** V 14.... Jesus died...

Genesis 3:15 ---- And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

Galatians 4:4 ----But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

 **B.** **...the resurrection of Christ**. V. 14... rose again

The Living Christ — The late and beloved scholar of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), W. E. Garrison, declared there were two high tides in the Christian year: the night of the nativity, and the morning of the resurrection. While they are events in time, they are also timeless, mysterious, and symbolic. No one can fully comprehend what happened in Bethlehem any more than one can understand what happened in Jerusalem. If one can accept history and common observation, these events shaped one’s comprehension of life and continue to have a transforming potency.

If the prophecy regarding His incarnation as well as the prophecy regarding His death burial and resurrection have been fulfilled why would we not believe in the prophecy of the rapture eventually being fulfilled?

**II. IMMINENCY OF THE RAPTURE IS ROOTED IN THE FACT THAT EACH TIME THE RAPTURE IS REFERENCED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IT MENTIONS NO CONDITIONS THAT NEED TO BE FULFILLED. — (COULD HAPPEN AT ANY MOMENT)**

Here and Now vs. There and Then — Some of the detractors that focus our attention away from the imminency of the rapture are:

 **A.** **Love for the world...** 1 John 2:15 ----Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

 **B.** **Tribulation in the world**... John 16:33 ---- “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

 **C.** **Indifference to prophetical teaching**... 1 Thessalonians 5:20 ---- do not despise prophetic utterances.

**III. REUNION** ---- v. 14... God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep...

**IV. HOPE & COMFORT** — V. 13, 18

Death of a loved one who was a believer is not a message of good-bye. It is “I will see you later.”

**V. THE HOPE OF THE RAPTURE AS WELL AS HIS SECOND COMING REFLECT THAT HISTORY IS GOAL ORIENTED.**

THE CHRISTIAN WORLD-VIEW REGARDING HISTORY IS THAT HISTORY IS LINEAR - PROGRESSIVE — IT IS MOVING TOWARD A PARTICULAR GOAL...IN THE MEAN-TIME ...

 **A.** **…Christ is building His church.**

Matthew 16:15–18 ---- 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

 **B. When the fulness of the gentiles is completed we can expect the rapture to take place.**

Romans 11:25 ----For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;

**Conclusion:**