

**The First Baptist Church of Columbus**

**Dr. Paul Large, Pastor**

**Sermon Notes Outline for video posted February 28, 2021**

**T I T L E: THE NATURE AND "THEN WHAT" OF THE RAPTURE**

**T E X T: 1 Thes. 4:16-18; John 14:3; 1 Cor. 15:51-53**

**I. THE NATURE OF THE RAPTURE**

**A. Personal in terms of the primary personality involved.**

"...for the Lord Himself will descend..."

**John 14:3** ---- "If I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive you to Myself**, that where I am, there you may be also.

**B. Planned which accents the biblical teaching that history is moving toward a particular event choreographed by the Lord. John 14:3**

**Job 42:1–2** ---- **1** Then Job answered the LORD and said, **2** "I know that You can do all things, and that **no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.**

Jonathan Winters — never wrote any material... He adlibbed every scenario which was presented to him. Such is the choreography of the Lord. No matter what He is presented with in terms of what He allows according to His permissive will He can and will use it to His purposes.

**C. Particular in the sense that it is or will be directed toward the household of God.**

**1 Thessalonians 4:16–17** ---- **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the **dead in Christ will rise first.** **17** Then we who are **alive and**

**remain** will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

#### **D. Unexpected as in the days of Noah.**

**Matthew 24:37–38** ---- **37** "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. **38** "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

J. C. Whitcomb...Dispensationalism Tomorrow & Beyond: A Theological Collection in Honor of Charles C. Ryrie (p. 358). Ft. Worth, TX: Tyndale Seminary Press

"Never for a moment doubt the truth and accuracy of the prophecies of the Word of God. There are many details about which we cannot be dogmatic, but the outline of things to come is perfectly clear in the Scriptures. Do not worry about what you can't understand but be concerned about what you do understand about the future. **The routine and normalcy of life can easily lull you into the sleep of disbelieving that these things will come to pass in our world.**"

## **II. THE THREEFOLD "THEN WHAT" OF THE RAPTURE**

### **A. Dramatic, instantaneous, indescribable, and thorough change spiritually, emotionally, and physically.**

**1 Corinthians 15:51–52** ---- **51** Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, **52** 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 will be changed. **53** For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

**15:52.** Paul used three vivid phrases to describe this change that will take place. "**In a moment**" is "**that which cannot be cut or divided,**" **the smallest possible.** We get our word atom from it. It describes the instantaneousness of the event. "**Twinkling**" suggests the idea of

**throwing. It refers to the time it takes to cast a glance or flutter an eyelid.** Complete Biblical Library Commentary - Romans-Corinthians.

**B. Dispensing of rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ based on one's stewardship of gifts, talents, opportunities, and responsibilities afforded him or her in this life.**

Criteria used — **actions** (Psalm 62:2; Matt. 16:27; Eph. 6:7-8), **thoughts** (Jeremiah 17:10; 1 Cor. 4:5; Rev. 2:23) and **words** (Matt. 12:35-37; James 3:1-12)

**1 Corinthians 3:12–15** ---- **12** Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, **13** each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. **14** If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. **15** If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

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**C. Marriage Supper of the Lamb**

**Conclusion:**