

**The First Baptist Church of Columbus**

**Dr. Paul Large, Pastor**

**Sermon Notes Outline for video posted March 14, 2021**

**T I T L E: The Great Expectation**

**T E X T: 1 Thes. 5:1-11 (Special Focus vv. 4-6)**

**I. The three basic approaches to the Second Coming of Christ have some beliefs in common although they may differ in the details.**

Evangelical agreement regarding the second coming of Christ: (Premillennial, Post Millennial, Amillennial)

- A. They all agree to the idea that the Bible is the authoritative word of God.**
- B. They all agree in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and that faith in Him is the only true grounds for salvation.**
- C. They all agree that there will be a future, personal, and visible return of Christ.**
- D. They all agree that every individual is to receive a resurrection body.**
- E. They all agree that everyone will stand before the judgment seat of Christ.**
- F. They all agree that the righteous will be rewarded in heaven, and that the wicked are to be punished in hell.**
- F. They all agree that the new kingdom will involve no more sin, sorrow, or suffering.**

## **II. Questions about the end times: (from the congregation)**

**A. Can the last days or the end times be avoided?**

**B. Will the rapture of the church be a secret?**

Depends on what you mean by secret. There will no doubt be dramatic and obvious change happening almost instantaneously...

**One Resource wrote:** Those left behind in the rapture will face a quickly changing world—and the change will not be for the better. Second Thessalonians 2:11 says that the “power of lawlessness” is currently being held in check by the Holy Spirit. At the rapture, the true church is removed from the earth, and the Holy Spirit’s restraint will be “taken out of the way.” At that moment, the world will have no born-again believers anywhere. All the Christian workers in hospitals, nursing homes, orphanages, rescue missions, relief agencies—gone. Every Christian in law enforcement, social work, and health care—gone. And of course many churches will sit empty. In addition to the great void in the service community will be the commencement of God’s judgment on a rebellious world, detailed in Revelation 6—16.

**C. What is the scope of the rapture and resurrection?**