

The First Baptist Church of Columbus

Dr. Paul Large, Pastor

Sermon Notes Outline for video posted May 22, 2022

T I T L E: The Rapture of the Church: Then What?

T E X T: 1 Thes. 4:13-18

Sermon Series: Things to Come: An Eschatological and Biblical Perspective

I. THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

A. Imminent — An early church theology.

James 5:9 ---- Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

Philippians 4:5 ---- Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.

1 Peter 4:7 ---- The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.

Hebrews 10:25 ---- not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Revelation 3:11 ---- I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

Revelation 22:7 ---- "And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."

1. Skeptics will cite the fact that 2000 plus years have passed and Christ is yet to initiate the rapture, thus they will use this truth as a reason to attack the inerrancy of Scripture or ridicule Christianity or both.

Jesus said, **Matthew 24:42** ----- "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

2. The fact that Christ has yet to initiate the rapture of the church does not mean that the rapture is not imminent but that all of mankind should be grateful that the God of the scriptures is indescribably merciful, gracious and patient not wishing for any to perish. However, His mercy, grace and patience will some day be exhausted and believers as well as skeptics or unbelievers will know first-hand, experientially what the scriptures mean when it presents the rapture as being imminent.

2 Peter 3:3–4 ----- **3** Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, **4** and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

2 Peter 3:8–9 ----- **8** But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. **9** The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

B. Initiatory — constitutes the beginning of a world of unimaginable chaos, tragedy and/or tribulation.

John F. MacArthur—The Second Coming — Signs of Christ's Return and the End of the Age — The average person today is likewise utterly oblivious to the inevitability of Christ's sudden return. Sadly, even many professing Christians live their lives without ever giving a thought to the possibility that they could find themselves in the presence of Christ at any moment. That sort of apathy makes us dull and spiritually sluggish.

Christ's aim this second half of the Olivet Discourse is to move our hearts with a desire to be constantly alert and watchful for His return.

During the tribulation all humanity will be more sin-hardened and spiritually calloused than ever before. As the crises of the Tribulation become more urgent, and earthly problems begin to assault the simplest aspects of everyday life, people will stubbornly become more and more hostile to God—and more determined than ever to live their lives as usual. Incredibly, with the universe literally collapsing around them, they will keep “eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage.” The more desperately they need to turn to the Lord, the more impervious they will be to His truth. Though they will suffer the worst imaginable consequences of human sin, they will nonetheless arrogantly refuse to repent (Rev. 9:20-21).

The terror of that time will be worse than any other holocaust the world has known or will ever know. The predominate source of wrath, mentioned without apology across the pages of prophecy, is God Himself. (**Mark Bailey—Dallas Baptist Theological Seminary**)

I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just. (Thomas Jefferson)

Revelation 9:20–21 ---- 20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; **21** and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

II. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:10 ---- For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Romans 14:10 ---- But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

The issue at this judgment will be the “life conduct” of each believer since he or she became a Christian.

A. Necessary

Matthew 12:36 ---- “But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

Galatians 6:7 ---- Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

Colossians 3:24–25 ---- **24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. **25** For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 ---- Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil.

B. Timing — logically subsequent to the Rapture

Luke 14:14 ---- and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

1 Corinthians 4:5 ---- Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.

Revelation 22:12 ---- 12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

C. Results — rewards or a sense of loss.... Crowns are the rewards....

1 Cor. 3:9-15

III. THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB

Revelation 19:7–9 ---- 7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." **8** It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. **9** Then he *said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he *said to me, "These are true words of God."
Enhanced relationship and fellowship...

Conclusion: